

A Daily Staff

for Life's Pathway



Sea of Galilee
from Tiberias

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A daily staff for life's
pathway





"WEARING THE WHITE FLOWER OF A BLAMELESS LIFE."
—Tennyson, *Page 242.*

A DAILY STAFF for Life's Pathway

SELECTED AND ARRANGED

BY —

MRS. C. S. DEROSSE

Illustrated by Ida C. Chandler.

"Sometimes a book containing a noble exemplar of life, taken up at random, merely with the object of reading it as a pastime, has been known to call forth energies whose existence had not before been suspected."—SAMUEL SMILES.



New York and London

FREDERICK A. STOKES COMPANY

PUBLISHERS

Printed in America

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To the Memory
OF
My Mother

*THE inward man is renewed day by day.—
2 COR. iv. 16.*



THEN, each one in his own place, we must give light to other lives, and make the one little spot in this world that is close about us brighter and happier with love and grace. The great lighthouse lamp pours beams far out to sea, but it does not lighten the space around its base. Some people send brightness far away, working for the heathen and doing deeds which benefit the world, while they fail to brighten their own homes and the lives close beside them. We ought not to be such lights as these ; while we send our influence abroad as far as possible, we should live so that we shall be benedictions to those who are nearest us.

REV. J. R. MILLER, D. D.



HE needs no other rosary whose thread of life is strung with beads of love and thought.—*From the Persian.*

LET your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.—HEBREWS xiii. 5.



MEN talk with their lips and dream with
their soul

Of better days hitherward pacing,
To a happy, a glorious, golden goal
See them go running and chasing.

The world grows old and to youth returns,
But still for the better man's bosom burns.

From Schiller, by George MacDonald.



THE work of a perfect man is to pass through many cares, as it were, without a care; not with the indifference of a sluggard, but with that privilege of a mind at liberty.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.



THE most beautiful of altars is the soul of an unhappy creature, consoled, thanking God.

VICTOR HUGO.



LET the only motive to read be the love of truth.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

MARY hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.—LUKE x. 42.



AND thus from day to day we live,
From others take, to others give;
Each forms a part of one great whole.
So live that they who meet with Thee
May better, truer, nobler be:
Thy own Christ-like divinity.

E. B. MONTREUX.



IF you trust in God and yourself, you can surmount every obstacle. Do not yield to restless anxiety. One must not always be asking what may happen to one in life, but one must advance fearlessly and bravely.

PRINCE BISMARCK.



LIFE, like a dome of many-colored glass, stains the white radiance of eternity.

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.



ALL that thou givest thou wilt carry away with thee.—*Turkish Proverb.*

THE Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.—JOHN xiv. 10.



THE crosses we make for ourselves, by anxiety as to the future, are not the crosses sent by God. FÉNELON.



CONSIDER the sea's listless chime:
Time's self it is, made audible,—
The murmur of the earth's own shell;
Secret continuance sublime
To the sea's end: our sight may pass
No furlong further. Since time was,
This sound hath told the lapse of time.

Hark where the murmurs of throng'd
men

Surge and sink back and surge again,—

Gather a shell from the strown beach
And listen at its lips: they sigh
The same desire and mystery,
The echo of the whole sea's speech.

And all mankind is thus at heart
Not anything but what thou art:
And Earth, Sea, Man, are all in each.

DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI.

BLESSED are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.—MATTHEW V. 6.



I AM with thee ! He hath said it
In His truth and tender grace ;
Sealed the promise, grandly spoken,
With how many a mighty token
Of His love and faithfulness.

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.



GOD is perfectly powerful because he is perfectly and infinitely of use, and perfectly good because he delights utterly and always in being of use, therefore we can become like God only in proportion as we become of use. All life, all devotion, all piety are only worth anything—only divine and God-like and God-beloved—as they are means to that one end—to be of use.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.



FIRST keep thyself in peace, and then shalt thou be able to pacify others.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

FOR I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.—ISAIAH xli. 13.



LORD, with glowing heart I'd praise Thee
For the bliss Thy love bestows;
For the pardoning grace that saves me,
And the peace that from it flows.

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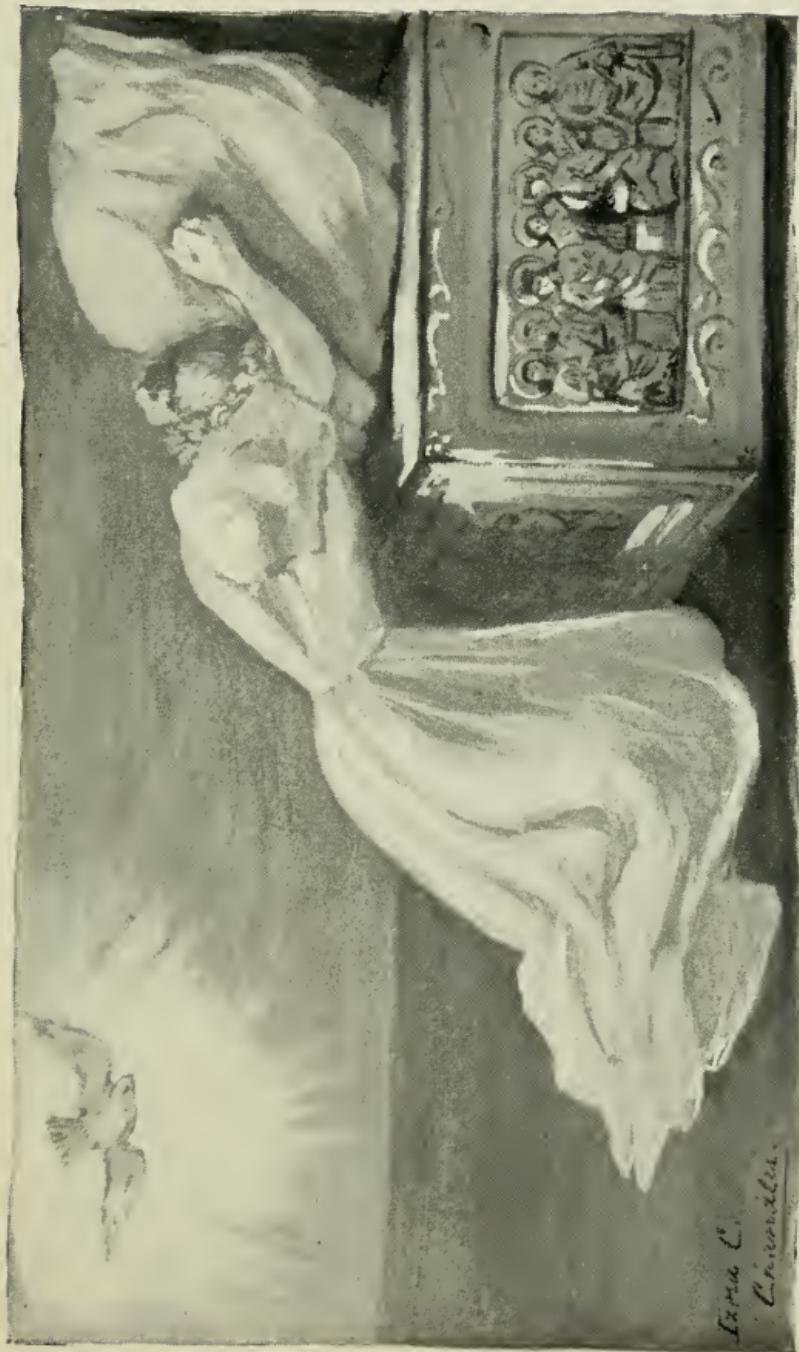
Let Thy grace, my soul's chief treasure,
Love's pure flame within me raise;
And since words can never measure,
Let my life show forth Thy praise.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY.



EVERY human being has duties to be performed, and therefore has need of cultivating the capacity for doing them, whether the sphere of action be the management of a household, the conduct of a trade or profession, or the government of a nation.

SAMUEL SMILES.



"MORE THINGS ARE WROUGHT BY PRAYER
THAN THE WORLD DREAMS OF." — *Tennyson*, Page 7.

*Lina C.
Cleveland.*

*IT is the spirit that quickeneth.—JOHN
vi. 63.*



LITTLE sins mar the beauty of the character. Then, they are sure to grow. Ofttimes, too, they are infinite in their consequences. The little rift in the lute widens and by and by destroys all the music. The trickling leak in the dike becomes a torrent deluging vast plains. We ought never to indulge even the smallest faults or evil habits, but should aim always at perfection. We ought to be satisfied with nothing less than perfection in character, and perfection is made up of trifles.

REV. J. R. MILLER, D. D.



MORE things are wrought by prayer
Than the world dreams of; wherefore,
Let thy voice rise like a fountain
For me, night and day.

ALFRED TENNYSON.



IN your patience possess ye your souls.—
LUKE xxi. 19.

HE which soweth sparingly, shall reap also sparingly ; and he which soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully.—2 CORINTHIANS ix. 6.



NEW every morning is the love
Our wakening and uprising prove,
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life, and power, and thought.

JOHN KEBLE.



THE things which are seen are temporal; it is the things that are not seen which are eternal. Even the dry light of critical analysis has thrown a flood of knowledge on the Bible. Even the philosophers of the last century quickened and freshened the whole atmosphere of religion with a nobler influence. Science, if it cannot increase our faith, has at any rate purified and enlarged it. . . Even in the silence of death, even in the darkness of the unseen world, we have the assurance that there is One to whom the darkness and the light are both alike. Let us hold on—“knowing, fearing nothing; trusting, hoping all.”

DEAN STANLEY.

COMMUNE with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.—PSALMS iv. 4.



Tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope.—ROMANS v. 3-4.



PRAISE God, from whom all blessings flow !
Praise Him, all creatures here below !
Praise Him, above, ye heavenly host !
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost !

THOMAS KEN.



IF a man would but truly and impartially examine himself, he would find but little cause to judge severely of his neighbor.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.



THE mind that delights in that which is lofty and great, which feels there is something higher than self, will undoubtedly be drawn toward Christ.

GEORGE MACDONALD.



HOPE is itself a species of happiness, and perhaps the chief happiness the world affords.

SAMUEL JOHNSON.

HE that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.—JOHN viii. 12.



TRUST God in the dark. This is the highest effort and triumph of faith. Pray on, trust on, believe on, hope on, and the still small voice will in due time come. Make use of time if thou lovest eternity: know yesterday cannot be recalled, to-morrow cannot be assured; to-day only is thine; one to-day is worth two to-morrows.
—*Enchiridion.*



New mercies, each returning day,
Hover around us while we pray;
New perils past, new sins forgiven,
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

If, on our daily course, our mind
Be set to hallow all we find,
New treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.

JOHN KEBLE.

FOLLOW after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.—I TIMOTHY vi. 11.



THE world is so waste and empty when we figure only towns and hills and rivers in it; but to know of some one here and there whom we accord with, who is living on with us even in silence, this makes our earthly ball a peopled garden.

GOETHE.



THERE's beauty all around our paths
If but our watchful eyes
Can trace it midst familiar things
And through their lowly guise.

MRS. HEMANS.



IT is only through the morning gate of the beautiful that you can penetrate into the realm of knowledge; that which we feel here as beauty, we shall one day know as truth.

SCHILLER.



I KNOW thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience.—REVELATIONS ii. 2.

*ACQUAINT now thyself with him, and be
at peace; thereby good shall come unto
thee.—JOB xxii. 21.*



YOU have a disagreeable duty to do at twelve o'clock. Do not blacken nine and ten and all between with the color of twelve. Do the work of each, and reap your reward in peace. So when the dreaded moment in the future becomes the present, you shall meet it walking in the light, and that light shall overcome its darkness.

GEORGE MACDONALD.



IN conversation be sincere:
Keep conscience as the noontide clear;
Think how all-seeing God thy ways
And all thy secret thoughts surveys.

By influence of the light divine
Let thy own light to others shine;
Reflect all Heaven's propitious rays,
In ardent love and cheerful praise.

THOMAS KEN.

BELIEVE in the light, that ye may be the children of light.—JOHN xii. 36.



HE is with thee! In thy dwelling,
Shielding thee from fear or ill ;
All thy burdens kindly bearing,
For thy dear ones gently caring,
Guarding, keeping, blessing still.

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.



THAT which a man thinks and feels, with his whole force of thought and feeling, the man is himself.

OWEN MEREDITH.



THE solitary side of our nature demands leisure for reflection upon subjects on which the dash and whirl of daily business, so long as its clouds rise above us, forbid the intellect to fasten itself.

JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE.



THERE is that within us which, all unbidden, rises to answer to the voice of intellectual truth, come whence it may.

EDERSHEIM.

EVERY good gift, and every perfect boon, is from above, coming down from the Father of light, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning.—REVISED ED. JAMES i. 17.



Now let us thank the Eternal Power : convinced
That Heaven but tries our virtue by affliction,
That oft the cloud which wraps the present hour
Serves but to brighten all our future days.

JOHN BROWN.



WE must not expect too much. We must not look for miracles, but what we may reasonably look for, is progress, and progress in the adoption of principles which are recommended not merely by theory—not merely by some apparently plausible grounds of reason, but by the surest investigations we can make, and by the still sweeter testimony of long experience.

WM. EWART GLADSTONE.

*WHERE hast thou gleaned to-day?—RUTH
ii. 19.*



*Strengthened with all might according
to his glorious power, unto all patience.—
COL. i. 11.*



THAT man may last, but never lives,
Who much receives but nothing gives ;
Whom none can love, whom none can
thank,
Creation's blot, creation's blank.

THOMAS GIBBONS.



THE beautiful exists only for the sublime
essence that seeks it ; the infinite exists
only for the soul which desires it. If you
could endow the smallest insect with the
sense of the beautiful and the infinite, this
imperceptible atom would comprehend
eternity and would see God, and this vision
would render it immortal.

L'AIMÉ MARTIN.



IF little labor, little are our gains ;
Man's fortunes are according to his pains.

HERRICK.

*HE will shew you things to come.—JOHN
xvi. 13.*



EACH day is like a furrow lying before us ; our thoughts, desires, and actions are the seed that each minute we drop into it, without seeming to perceive it. The furrow finished, we commence upon another, then another, and again another ; each day presents a fresh one, and so on to the end of life . . . sowing, ever sowing. And all we have sown springs up, grows, and bears fruit, almost unknown to us. . . Is there not a thought in this that should make us reflect ?—*Gold Dust.*



NOTHING, resting in its own completeness,
Can have worth or beauty, but alone
Because it leads and tends to farther sweet-
ness,
Fuller, higher, deeper, than its own.

ANONYMOUS.



IF thou hadst simplicity and purity, thou wouldst be able to comprehend all things without error, and behold them without danger.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

*THE law of the Lord is perfect, converting
the soul : the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple.—PSALMS xix. 7.*



ALL but God is changing day by day;
He who breathes in man the plastic spirit
Bids us mold ourselves a robe of clay.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.



WHEN some splendid edifice is to be reared, its diversified materials are brought from this quarter and from that, according as nature and man favor their production. So did the wisdom of God, with slow but ever sure device, cause to ripen, amid the several races best adapted for the work, the several component parts of the noble fabric of a Christian manhood and a Christian civilization.

WM. EWART GLADSTONE.



WE often do more good by our sympathy than by our labors.

CANON FARRAR.

WHO can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.—PSALMS xix. 12.



THE delights of thought, of truth, of work, and of well doing will not descend upon us like the dew upon the flower, without effort of our own. Labor, watchfulness, perseverance, self-denial, fortitude, are the elements out of which this kind of joy is formed.

S. C. JONES.



SINCE Thou hast added now, O God!
Unto my life another day,
And givst me leave to walk abroad,
And labor in my lawful way;
My walks and works with me begin,
Conduct me forth, and bring me in.

So till the evening of this morn
My times shall then be so well spent,
That when the twilight shall return
I may enjoy it with content,
And to Thy praise and honor say,
That this has proved a happy day.

GEORGE WITHER.

*UNTO thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.—
PSALMS XXV. 1.*



*Let us run with patience the race that is set
before us, looking unto Jesus.—HEBREWS xii.
1, 2.*



HE is with thee! with thee always,
All the nights and all the days:
Never failing, never frowning,
With His loving kindness crowning,
Turning all thy life to praise.

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.



HOTHING that is of real worth can be achieved without courageous working. Man owes his growth chiefly to that active striving of the will, that encounter with difficulty, which we call effort; and it is astonishing to find how often results apparently impracticable are thus made possible.

SAMUEL SMILES.



EVERY duty that is bidden to wait comes back with seven fresh duties at its back.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

*BEFORE they call, I will answer, and
while they are yet speaking, I will hear.—
ISAIAH lxv. 24.*



NEARER, my God, to thee,
 Nearer to thee !
E'en though it be a cross
 That raiseth me;
Still all my song shall be,
 Nearer, my God, to Thee,
 Nearer to thee !

SARAH FLOWER ADAMS.



THE life of man is made up of action and endurance, and life is fruitful in the ratio in which it is laid out in noble action or in patient perseverance.

What we do on some great occasion will probably depend on what we already are, and what we are will be the result of previous years of self-discipline.

CANON LIDDON.



It's good to live only a moment at a time . . . It isn't for you and me to lay plans: we've nothing to do but to obey and trust.

GEORGE ELIOT.

SHEW me thy ways, O Lord ; teach me thy paths.—PSALMS XXV. 4.



THERE are glimpses of heaven granted to us by every act, or thought, or word, which raises us above ourselves—which makes us think less of ourselves and more of others—which has taught us of something higher and truer than we have in our own hearts.

DEAN STANLEY.



To thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

SHAKSPEARE.



HAPPY the heart that keeps its twilight hour,
And in the depths of heavenly peace reclined,
Loves to commune with thoughts of tender power,
Thoughts that ascend, like angels beautiful,
On shining Jacob's ladder of the mind.

PAUL H. HAYNE.

HOLD up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.—PSALMS xvii. 5.



TO see the hand of God in the present, and to trust the future in the hand of God, is the secret of peace. Self-denial for the sake of self-denial does no good. Self-sacrifice for its own sake is no religious act at all. . . . Self-sacrifice, illuminated by love, is warmth and life : the blessedness and only proper life of man.

F. W. ROBERTSON.



THE trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask ;
Room to deny ourselves—a road
To bring us, daily, nearer God.

Seek we no more : content with these
Let present rapture, comfort, ease,
As Heaven shall bid them, come and go ;
The secret this of rest below.

JOHN KEBLE.

IT is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.—PSALMS xviii. 32.



LIFE is only bright when it proceedeth
Toward a truer, deeper life above.

Human love is sweetest when it leadeth
To a more divine and perfect love.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.



MANY are the valiant purposes formed, that end merely in words ; deeds intended that are never done ; designs projected that are never begun ; and all for want of a little courageous decision. Better far the silent tongue but the eloquent deed. For in life and in business dispatch is better than discourse, and the shortest answer of all is, Doing.

SAMUEL SMILES.



IT is not to taste sweet things, but to do noble and true things and vindicate himself under God's heaven as a self-made man, that the poorest son of Adam dimly longs.

THOMAS CARLYLE.

THE Lord is far from the wicked : but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.—PROVERBS XV. 29.



CHILD of my Love, lean hard,
And let me feel the pressure of thy care.
I know thy burden, child : I shaped it,
Poised it in mine own hand, made no pro-
portion
Of its height to thine unaided strength ;
For even as I laid it on, I said,
“ I shall be near, and while she leans on
me
This burden shall be mine, not hers.”
So shall I keep my child within the circling
arms
Of mine own love.
Thou lovest me ? I know it. Doubt not,
But, loving me, lean hard.

ANONYMOUS.



LIFE is only bright when it proceedeth
Towards a truer, deeper Life above.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.



As fire drives out fire, so pity pity.

SHAKSPEARE.

*THOU hast put gladness in my heart.—
PSALMS iv. 7.*



COURAGE, the highest gift, that scorns to bend

To mean devices for a sordid end.

Courage—an independent spark from Heaven's bright throne,
By which the soul stands raised, triumphant, high, alone.

Great in itself, not praised of the crowd,
Above all vice, it stoops not to be proud.

G. FARQUHAR.



TRUE, modest, unobtrusive religion—charitable, forgiving, indulgent Christianity—is the greatest ornament and the greatest blessing that can dwell in the mind of man.

SYDNEY SMITH.



THERE is no victory possible without humility and magnanimity, and no magnanimity or humility possible without an ideal; and there is not one who has not heard the call in his own heart to put aside all evil habits, and to live a brave, simple, truthful life.

THOMAS HUGHES.

FOR our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.—PSALMS xxxiii. 21.



THREE is an eventide in the day—an hour when the sun retires and the shadows fall, and when Nature assumes the appearance of soberness and silence. It is an hour from which everywhere the thoughtless fly, as peopled only in their imaginations with images of gloom; it is the hour, on the other hand, which in every age the wise have loved, as bringing with it sentiments and affections more valuable than all the splendors of the day.

A. ALISON.



FAULTS are thick where love is thin.—*Proverb.*



ALL men have their frailties, and whoever looks for a friend without imperfection will never find what he seeks. We love ourselves notwithstanding our faults, and we ought to love our friends in like manner.

CYRUS.

MY voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.—PSALMS v. 3.



CHRISTIANS are like the several flowers in a garden that have each of them the dews of heaven, which, being shaken with the wind, they let fall at each other's roots, whereby they are jointly nourished, and become nourishers of each other.

JOHN BUNYAN.



ONE moment now may give us more
Than years of toiling reason:
Our minds shall drink at every pore
The spirit of the season.

Some silent laws our hearts will make,
Which they shall long obey:
We from the year to come may take
Our temper from to-day.

WM. WORDSWORTH.

LET my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.—PSALMS xvii. 2.



HAPPINESS is not like a large and beautiful gem, so uncommon and rare that all search for it is vain, all efforts to obtain it hopeless; but it consists of a series of smaller and commoner gems, grouped and set together, forming a pleasing and graceful whole. Happiness consists in the enjoyment of little pleasures scattered along the common path of life, which, in the eager search for some great and exciting joy, we are apt to overlook.

SAMUEL SMILES.



By trifles in our common ways,
Our characters are slowly piled;
We lose not all our yesterdays;
The man hath something of the child;
Part of the past to all the present cleaves,
As the rose-odors linger in the fading leaves.

WM. MORLEY PUNSHON.

AND his soul desireth, even that he doeth.—
JOB xxiii. 13.



GREATNESS and goodness are not means
but ends !

Hath he not always treasures, always
friends,

The good, great man? three treasures—
love, and light,

And calm thoughts, regular as infants' breath. S. T. COLERIDGE.

S. T. COLERIDGE.



WHAT is the measure of the love we owe to others? It is the measure of what we think is owing to ourselves, "Love him as thyself." Observe, if I may use such a word, the equity of this divine rule. It makes us the judge of what we ought to do. It imposes upon us no duty that we have not already acknowledged for ourselves.

DEAN STANLEY.



WHY destroy present happiness by a distant misery, which may never come at all? . . for every substantial grief has twenty shadows, and most of them shadows of your own making. SYDNEY SMITH.

*THE Lord liveth; and blessed be my Rock;
and let the God of my salvation be exalted.—PSALMS xviii. 46.*



HE is with thee! In thy service
He is with thee “certainly,”
Filling with the Spirit’s power,
Giving in the needing hour
His own messages by thee.

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.



IN all lives there is a crisis in the formation of character. It comes from many causes, and from some which, on the surface, are apparently trivial. But the result is the same—a sudden revelation to ourselves of our secret purposes, and a recognition of our perhaps long shadowed, but now masterful convictions.

LORD BEACONSFIELD.



IT has done me good to be somewhat parched by the heat and drenched by the rain of life.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

THE Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.—PSALMS xxiii. 1.



THE Lord my pasture shall prepare,
And feed me with a shepherd's care ;
His presence shall my wants supply,
And guard me with a watchful eye ;
My noonday walks he shall attend,
And all my midnight hours defend.

When in the sultry glebe I faint,
Or on the thirsty mountain pant,
To fertile vales and dewy meads
My weary, wandering steps he leads,
Where peaceful rivers soft and slow
Amid the verdant landscape flow.

Though in a bare and rugged way,
Through devious, lonely wilds I stray,
Thy bounty shall my pains beguile ;
The barren wilderness shall smile,
With sudden green and herbage crowned ;
And streams shall murmur all around.

JOSEPH ADDISON.

All things are possible to him that believeth.—MARK ix. 23.



Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy laws' demands ;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone :
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy Cross I cling.

A. M. TOPLADY.



THREE is, indeed, an essence of immortality in the life of man, even in this world. No individual in the universe stands alone ; he is a component part of a system of mutual dependencies ; and by his several acts he either increases or diminishes the sum of human good now and forever.

SAMUEL SMILES.



LIFE is a long lesson in humility.

J. M. BARRIE.

*OUR fathers trusted in thee : they trusted,
and thou didst deliver them.—PSALMS
xxii. 4.*



HE is with thee ! with thy spirit,
With thy lips, or with thy pen ;
In the quiet preparation,
In the heart-bowed congregation,
Nevermore alone again !

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.



BE true and real in all thy sacred acts ;
remember with whom thou hast to do.

FR. HALL.



DESPONDENCY is not a state of humility.
On the contrary, it is the vexation and despair of a cowardly pride ; nothing is worse.
Whether we stumble or whether we fall, we must only think of rising again and going on in our course.

FÉNELON.



THAT ye be . . . followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.—*Hebrews vi. 12.*

THEN shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily.—ISAIAH lviii. 8.



ALL things are engaged in writing their history. Every act of man inscribes itself in the memories of his fellows, and in his own manners and face. The air is full of sounds ; the sky, of tokens ; the ground is all memoranda and signatures, and every object covered with hints which speak to the intelligent.

GOETHE.



THERE are, within the range of everyone's life, processes of life which must be solitary ; passages of duty which throw one absolutely upon his individual moral forces, and admit of no aid whatever from another. Alone we must stand sometimes ; and if our better nature is not to shrink into weakness, we must take with us the thought which was the strength of Christ : “ Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.”

JAMES MARTINEAU.

*LEAD me, O Lord, in thy righteousness,
because of mine enemies; make thy way
straight before my face.—PSALMS V. 8.*



We should walk upright, bold, and earnest
—gay,
And when the last night closed on the last
day,
Should sleep like one that far-off music hears.

GEORGE MACDONALD.



EVERYONE knows the pleasure of receiving a kind look, a warm greeting, a hand held out to help in distress, a difficulty solved, a higher hope revealed for this world or the next. By that pain and by that pleasure let us judge what we should do to others.

This is the root of all Christian charity, of all Christian forgiveness, of all Christian justice, of all Christian toleration.

DEAN STANLEY.



MANNERS are the happy ways of doing things—each one a stroke of genius or of love—now repeated and hardened into usage.

R. W. EMERSON.

THOU wilt shew me the path of life : in thy presence is fulness of joy ; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore.—PSALMS xvi. ii.



WE know the arduous strife, th' eternal laws

To which the triumph of all good is given,
. . . else wherefore should the eye
Of man converse with immortality.

W.M. WORDSWORTH.



HOW few persons are quite aware what resources and powers are stored up in the soul—or waiting within easy call—to serve them in all intellectual or moral emergencies.

REV. CHARLES G. AMES.



WHAT a healer, what a strength-giver is joy in the world ! Will not holy joy at last drive out every disease in the world ? Will it not be the elixir of life and drive out death ?

GEORGE MACDONALD.

GOD is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.—I JOHN iv. 16.



THERE is a stream whose gentle flow
Supplies the city of our God;
Life, love, and joy, still gliding through,
And watering our divine abode.
That sacred stream, thine holy word
Supports our faith, our fear controls;
Sweet peace thy promises afford,
And give new strength to fainting souls.

ISAAC WATTS.



I BELIEVE in Eternal Progression ; I
believe in a God, a beauty and perfection
to which I am to strive all my life for
assimilation. MARGARET FULLER.



EVERY man has experienced how feelings
which end in themselves, and do not express
themselves in action, leave the heart debilitated.
We get feeble and sickly in character
when we feel keenly and cannot do the
thing we feel. F. W. ROBERTSON.

*KEEP thy tongue from evil, and thy lips
from speaking guile.—PSALMS XXXIV. 13.*



KNOWING ourselves, our world—our task
so great,

Our time so brief—'tis clear if we refuse
The means so limited, the tools so rude
To execute our purpose, life will fleet,
And we shall fade, and leave our task undone.

ROBERT BROWNING.



ALITTLE consideration of what takes place around us every day, would show us that a higher law than that of our will regulates events; that our painful labors are very unnecessary and altogether fruitless; that only in our easy, simple, spontaneous action are we strong, and by contenting ourselves with obedience we become divine. Belief and love—a believing love will relieve us of a vast load of care. Oh, my brothers ! God exists.

R. W. EMERSON.



As we advance in life we learn the limits
of our abilities.

JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE.

THE Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saith such as be of a contrite spirit.—PSALMS XXXIV. 18.



OH, what a wretched thing it is to be unkind ! I think, with the thought of the Precious Blood, I can better face my sins at the last judgment than my unkindness, with all its miserable fertility of evil consequences.

FREDERICK W. FABER, D. D.



'Tis a little thing
To give a cup of water; yet its draught
Of cool refreshment, drained by fevered lips,
May give a shock of pleasure to the frame
More exquisite than when nectarean juice
Renews the life of joy in happiest hours.
It is a little thing to speak a phrase
Of common comfort which by daily use,
Has almost lost its sense; yet on the ear
Of him who thought to die unmourned 'twill
fall
Like choicest music . . .
To him who else were lonely, that another
Of the great family is near and feels.

WM. CULLEN BRYANT.

*MANY are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord delivereth him out of them
all.—PSALMS XXXIV. 19.*



HE is with thee ! Thine own Master,
Leading, loving to the end;
Brightening joy and lightening sorrow,
All to-day, yet more to-morrow,
King and Saviour, Lord and Friend.

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.



ENJOY the blessings of this day, if God sends them; and the evils of it bear patiently and sweetly: for this day is only ours, we are dead to yesterday, and we are not yet born to the morrow.

JEREMY TAYLOR.



THE most gladsome thing in the world is that few of us fall very low; the saddest that, with such capabilities, we seldom rise high.

J. M. BARRIE.



WE always know what to do *next*, and that is enough.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

TRUST in the Lord, and do good ; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.—PSALMS XXXVII. 3.



THE Shadow of the Rock !

All come alone ;

All, ever since the sun hath shone,
Who traveled by this road have come alone.

Be of good cheer—

A home is here—

Rest in the Shadow of the Rock.

F. W. FABER.



TO study the lives, to meditate the sorrows, to commune with the thoughts, of the great and holy men and women of this rich world, is a sacred discipline, which deserves at least to rank as the fore-court of the temple of true worship.

JAMES MARTINEAU.



MANY of our cares are but a morbid way of looking at our privileges.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.



FAITH in God gives the ability to find God's plans. REV. W. R. NEWHALL.

*S*HEW thy marvelous loving-kindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.—PSALMS xvii. 7.



EN opal lay in the case, cold and lusterless. It was held a few moments in a warm hand, when it gleamed and glowed with all the beauty of the rainbow. All about us are human lives of children or of older persons, which seem cold and unbeautiful, without spiritual radiance or the gleams of indwelling light which tell of immortality. Yet they need only the touch of a warm human hand, the pressure of love, to bring out in them the brightness of the spiritual beauty that is hidden in them.

J. R. MILLER, D. D.



LET us only take care that, by the glance being turned inward, or strained onward, or lost in vacant reverie, we do not miss our turn of service, and pass by those to whom we might have been sent on an errand straight from God.

MRS. E. R. CHARLES.

*I HAD fainted, unless I had believed to see
the goodness of the Lord in the land of
the living.—PSALMS xxvii. 13.*



HERE is a lesson that he who runs may read ;
Though I fear but few have won it,—
The best reward of a kindly deed
Is the knowledge of having done it !

EDGAR FAWCETT.



IF I can put one touch of rosy sunset into
the life of any man or woman I shall
feel that I have worked with God.

GEORGE MACDONALD.



HE only is advancing in life whose heart
is getting softer, whose blood warmer,
whose brain quicker, whose spirit is entering
into Living Peace.

JOHN RUSKIN.

BUT godliness with contentment is great gain.—I TIMOTHY vi. 6.



My God protects; my fears begone,
What can the Rock of Ages move?
Safe in Thine arms I lay me down,
Thine everlasting arms of love.

CHARLES WESLEY.



THOUGHTS clear and shape themselves, not like crystals and feelings by being still, but like tangled skeins by being unwound ; by being tossed about among other people's thoughts, or among other thoughts of our own.—*Author, Schönberg-Cotta Family.*



So long as men dispute whether or no a thing is their duty, they get never the nearer. Let them set ever so weakly about doing it, and the face of things alters. They find in themselves strength which they knew not of. Difficulties which it seemed to them they could not get over, disappear.

REV. E. B. PUSEY.

*THE Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants :
and none of them that trust in him shall be
desolate.—PSALMS XXXIV. 22.*



HE is with thee ! Yes, forever,
Now, and through eternity ;
Then with Him forever dwelling,
Thou shalt share His joy excelling,
Thou with Christ and Christ with thee !

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.



MY life ! The words recall me to my senses. I am surely not about to drift into the ranks of the unemployed who go about moaning, “My life, and what shall I do with it ?” My life ! that is God’s. He will know what to do with it. The “hands which came from darkness, molding men,” will find what to do with it, my life ! I have no “life ” of my own. I have only to-day.

—Author, Schönberg-Cotta Family.



THRICE blessed is he, who, when all is drear and cheerless within and without, when his teachers terrify him, and his friends shrink from him, has obstinately clung to moral good.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

FOR with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.—PSALMS xxxvi. 9.



I REST beneath the Almighty's shade,
My griefs expire, my troubles cease,
Thou, Lord, on whom my soul is stayed,
Wilt keep me still in perfect peace.

CHARLES WESLEY.



BSERVE the object toward which this love is to extend—“Thy neighbor.” Here again there is, so to speak, a common sense and equity: what has been well called “The sweet reasonableness of Christ our Saviour.” It is not an indiscriminate command of love to show kindness to everybody and to all mankind. That, in its literal sense, would be impossible. But it is to love “our neighbor.” And what is meant by our neighbor we cannot doubt; it is everyone with whom we are brought into contact.

DEAN STANLEY.



THIS world's no blot for us,
Nor blank; it means intensely, and means good.

ROBERT BROWNING.

*FRET not thyself because of evil doers,
neither be thou envious against the workers
of iniquity.—PSALMS xxxvii. 1.*



I KNOW not what awaits me,
God kindly veils my eyes,
And o'er each step on my onward way
He makes new scenes arise;
And every joy He sends me comes
A sweet and glad surprise.

P. P. BLISS.



TO wait patiently, men must work cheerfully. Cheerfulness is an excellent working quality, imparting great elasticity to the character. As a bishop has said, “Temper is nine-tenths of Christianity”; so are cheerfulness and diligence nine-tenths of practical wisdom. They are the life and soul of success, as well as of happiness; perhaps the very highest pleasure in life consisting in clear, brisk, conscious working; energy, confidence, and every other good quality mainly depending upon it.

SAMUEL SMILES.

*THE wise, and their works, are in the hand
of God.—ECCL. ix. 1.*



WHEN gathering clouds around I view,
And days are dark and friends are few,
On Him I lean, who not in vain
Experienced every human pain;
He sees my wants, allays my fears,
And counts and treasures up my tears.

SIR ROBERT GRANT.



THE lightning may dart out of a black cloud: but the day sends his bright heralds before him, to prepare the world for his coming. So should we endeavor to render our lives here on earth as it were the dawn of heaven's eternal day: we should endeavor to "walk as children of light." . . Thus the children of light will walk as having the light of knowledge, steadfastly, firmly, right onward to the end that is set before them.

JULIUS CHARLES HARE.



"Now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

BUT to do good, and to communicate, forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.—HEBREWS xiii. 16.



I AWAKE this morn and all my life
Is freshly mine to live.

The future, with sweet promise rife,
Has crowns of joy to give.

Chambers's Journal.



THE poor Buddhist pilgrim who prayed to, he knew not what, for support, and in the strength of that prayer was sustained body and soul long days and nights, was blessed, and that blessing was enough for him. The Samoyede, who said in her morning prayer, “Sun, arise; I arise with thee;” and in her evening prayer, “Sun, go to rest; I rest with thee,” expressed a harmony with the order of the world which raised her above her own sluggish life.

DEAN STANLEY.



THE thing which makes one man greater than another, the quality by which we ought to measure greatness, is a man’s capacity for loving.

SIR ARTHUR HELPS.

*LET the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.—
PSALMS xix. 14.*



THE moral discipline of bearing with evil patiently is a great deal better and more ennobling than the most vigorous assertion of one's personal rights.

H. B. STOWE.



UNLESS above himself he can
Erect himself, how poor a thing is man.

WM. WORDSWORTH.



THE greatest thing, says someone, a man can do for his Heavenly Father is to be kind to some of his other children. I wonder why it is that we are not all kinder than we are? How much the world needs it! How easily it is done. How instantaneously it acts! How infallibly it is remembered!

HENRY DRUMMOND.



GOOD to forgive; best to forget.

ROBERT BROWNING.

*BRINGING into captivity every thought to
the obedience of Christ.—2 CORINTHIANS
x. 5.*



LONG did I toil, and knew no earthly rest;
Far did I rove, and found no certain
home;
At last I sought them in His sheltering
breast
Who opes His arms, and bids the weary
come.
With Him I found a home, a rest divine;
And I since then am His, and He is mine.

HENRY FRANCIS LYTE.



MOTHING makes the soul so pure, so
religious, as the endeavor to create
something perfect; for God is perfection,
and whoever strives for it strives for some-
thing that is God-like.

MICHAEL ANGELO.



Now the God of patience and consola-
tion grant you to be like-minded one
toward another according to Christ Jesus.
—ROMANS xv. 4-5.

*SURELY goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days of my life ; and I will dwell
in the house of the Lord forever.—PSALMS
xxiii. 6.*



I SEE my way as birds *their* trackless way.
I shall arrive! what time, what circuit first
I ask not.

In some time—His good time, I shall arrive.
He guides me and the birds—in His good
time.

ROBERT BROWNING.



THE whole course of things goes to
teach us faith. We need only obey.
There is guidance for each of us, and by
lowly listening we shall hear the right word.
. . Place yourself in the middle of the
stream of power and wisdom which flows
into you as life, place yourself in the full
center of that flood; then you are without
effort impelled to truth, to right, and a per-
fect contentment.

JOHN RUSKIN.



HUNDREDS of people can talk for one
who can think, but thousands can think
for one who can see. JOHN RUSKIN.



Ira C.
Chandler.

"I SEE MY WAY AS BIRDS THEIR TRACKLESS WAY."

Browning, Page 52.

*If God be for us, who can be against us?—
ROMANS viii. 31.*



WE cannot kindle when we will
 The fire which in the heart resides :
 The spirit bloweth and is still ;
 In mystery our soul abides ;
 But tasks in hours of insight willed
 May be through hours of gloom fulfilled.

MATTHEW ARNOLD.



HALF of our work is waiting, and hope
 is the inspiration of waiting ; that is,
 hope makes waiting *active*, instead of *passive*,
 a vivid expectation, instead of a slumberous
 acquiescence in delay. “ If we hope for a
 thing, then do we with patience wait for it.”
—Author, Schönberg-Cotta Family.



THERE is no dearth of kindness in this
 world of ours : only in our blindness we
 gather thorns for flowers.

GERALD MASSEY.

SEE that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.—I PETER i. 22.



IT was a true instinct which had made the frailest and most perishable of flowers the token of love, and not the loveliest and most enduring of shells. The most colorless dried rose-leaf between the pages of an old letter, yellow and faded like itself, had more life in it than the most perfect shell glowing with rose and opal, and shining with the polish of the mighty waves which had tossed it hither and thither. For the rose-leaf had life enough to die. The shell was, after all, not a life, but only the cast of a living form.—*Author, Schönberg-Cotta Family.*



INSTRUCTION ends in the schoolroom, but education ends only with life. . . And education is to unfold nature ; to strengthen good and conquer evil ; to give self help ; to make a man.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

THE Lord looketh from heaven ; he beholdeth all the sons of men.—PSALMS xxxiii. 13.



THE thistle that grows in thy path, dig it out that a blade of useful grass, a drop of nourishing milk, may grow there instead. The waste cotton shrub, gather its waste white down, spin it, weave it ; that in place of idle litter, there may be folded webs, and the naked skin of man be covered. But above all, where thou findest Ignorance, Stupidity, Brute-mindedness—attack it, I say ; smite it wisely, unweariedly, and rest not while thou livest and it lives ; but smite, smite in the name of God ! The highest God, as I understand it, does audibly so command thee.

THOMAS CARLYLE.



BLESSED is the man who has the gift of making friends, for it is one of God's best gifts. It involves many things, but above all the power of going out of one's self and seeing and appreciating what is noble and loving in another man.

THOMAS HUGHES.

HE loveth righteousness and judgment ; the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

—PSALMS XXXIII. 5.



IT is not blessedness to know that thou thyself art blessed ;

True joy was never yet by one, nor yet by two possessed.

Nor to the many is it given, but only to the all ;

The joy that leaves one heart unblessed would be for mine too small.

And he who holds this faith will strive with firm and ardent soul,

And work out his own proper good in working for the whole,

God only sees this perfect good : the way to it is dim ;

God only then is truly blessed ; man only blessed in him.

Wisdom of the Brahmins.



“**W**ALK as children of light.” It is to light that all nations and languages have had recourse whenever they wanted a symbol for anything excellent in glory.

JULIUS CHARLES HARE.

*If the root be holy, so are the branches.—
ROMANS xi. 16.*



TIt takes long to learn practically that spiritual truth has really different aspects, without sin, simply from our different points of view; and that even the differences which spring from faults of character and that ought *not* to be, have to be corrected slowly, like the character itself. We talk philosophically about the pendulum vibrating, or truth advancing in a spiral. But when the pendulum begins to swing back from our own point of the vibration, it is difficult not to feel as if the sun were standing still, or the whole machinery being reversed.—*Author, Schönberg-Cotta Family.*



I HOLD it truth, with him who sings
To one clear harp in divers tones,
That men may rise on stepping-stones
Of their dead selves, to higher things.

ALFRED TENNYSON.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.—GALATIANS V. 25.



If aught should tempt my soul to stray
From heavenly wisdom's narrow way,
To fly the good I would pursue,
Or do the sin I would not do,
Still He, who felt temptation's power,
Shall guard me in that dangerous hour.

SIR ROBERT GRANT.



HOME is the one place in all this world where hearts are sure of each other. It is the place of confidence. It is the place where we tear off that mask of guarded and suspicious coldness which the world forces us to wear in self-defense; where we pour out the unreserved communication of full and confiding hearts. It is the spot where expressions of tenderness gush out without any dread of ridicule. Let a man travel where he will, home is the place to “which his heart, untrammeled, fondly turns.” . . . A happy home is the single spot of rest which a man has upon this earth for the cultivation of his noblest sensibilities.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

BE glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous; and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.—PSALMS XXXII. 11.



O WAKE and live !
No dream can give
A shadow'd bliss, the real excelling.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.



THE watchful Christian is one who would not be over-surprised if he found Christ coming at once; he would not have something to do first, something to get ready.

J. H. NEWMAN.



A SORROW comes upon you. . . Meet the dreadful hour with prayer, cast your care on God, claim him as your Father,—and the degrading, paralyzing, embittering effects of pain and sorrow pass away, a stream of sanctifying and softening thought pours into the soul, and that which might have wrought your fall but works in you the peaceful fruits of righteousness.

STOPFORD BROOKE.

*DO good, that they be rich in good works.—I
TIMOTHY vi. 18.*



THROUGH every age,
Through every moment up the tract of
time,
His parent-hand, with ever-new increase
Of happiness and virtue, has adorned
The vast harmonious frame: his parent-
hand,
From the mute shell-fish gasping on the
shore,
To men, to angels, to celestial minds,
Forever leads the generations on
To higher scenes of being; while, supplied
From day to day with his enlivening breath,
Inferior orders in succession rise
To fill the void below. As flame ascends,
As bodies to their proper center move,
As the poised ocean to the attracting Moon
Obedient swells, and every headlong stream
Devolves its winding waters to the main;—
So all things which have life aspire to God,
The Sun of being, boundless, unimpaired,
Center of souls!

MARK AKENSIDE

KNOW ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost? . . . therefore glorify God in your body.—I COR. vi. 19, 20.



GOD has a vocation for each one of us. God cannot spare anyone. . . It is not merely the shapely stones which are necessary for a building, but those that are unshapely. The stones that are hidden from sight are just as needful for the compact firmness of the edifice as those that show in an honorable place. But we like to appear. We like to shine and be conspicuous. . . If we are unnoticed and lost to outward view, we are not lost to the Eye of God. We still form part of His plan. He has a use for us, and we have, each of us, a true vocation.

H. COLLINS.



To know
That which before us lies in daily life,
Is the prime wisdom.

JOHN MILTON.



THAT life is long which answers life's great end.

EDWARD YOUNG.

*AND his heart was moved, and the heart of
his people, as the trees of the wood are
moved with the wind.—ISAIAH vii. 2.*



THE Lord my pasture shall prepare,
And feed me with a shepherd's care ;
His presence shall my wants supply,
And guard me with a watchful eye.

JOSEPH ADDISON.



TRUE glory consists in doing what
deserves to be written, in writing what
deserves to be read, and in so living as to
make the world happier and better for our
living in it.

PLINY.



EVERY right action and true thought sets
the seal of its beauty on person and face.

JOHN RUSKIN.



FULL souls are double mirrors, making still
An endless vista of fair things before,
Repeating things behind.

GEORGE ELIOT.

KEEP thy heart all with diligence ; for out of it are the issues of life.—PROVERBS iv. 23.



LIFE is not made up of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things, of which smiles and kindness and small obligations, given habitually, are what win and preserve the heart.

SIR HUMPHREY DAVY.



OLD friends, old scenes will lovelier be,
As more of Heaven in each we see;
Some softening gleam of love and prayer
Shall dawn on every cross and care.

As for some dear familiar strain
Untired we ask, and ask again,
Ever, in its melodious store,
Finding a spell unheard before.

JOHN KEBLE.



THE golden beams of Truth and the silken cords of Love, twisted together, will draw men on with a sweet violence, whether they will or not.

REV. W. CUDWORTH.

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread. . . . For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.—GENESIS iii. 19.



HOPE springs eternal in the human breast;
Man never is, but always to be blest.
The soul uneasy, and confined from home,
Rests and expatiates in a life to come.

ALEXANDER POPE.



AS a man thinketh, so is he, and as a man chooseth, so is he and so is nature. . . . He is like one of those booms which are set out from the shore on rivers to catch drift-wood, or like the loadstone among splinters of steel.

R. W. EMERSON.



THOSE who love God here will love Him far more in heaven, because they will know Him far better. . . . They who served Him here in sincerity, will there serve Him in perfection.

HANNAH MORE.



LONG do we live upon the husks of corn,
While 'neath untasted lie the kernels still.

JONES VERY.

To guide our feet into the way of peace.—
LUKE I. 79.



SUCH as have not gold to bring Thee,
They bring thanks—Thy grateful sons;
Such as have no song to sing Thee,
Live Thy praise—Thy silent ones.

JEAN INGELOW.



IF we but knew the present joy and the future glory of those that turn many to righteousness, we should be willing to take the lowest place among all those who have part in this work. A. T. PIERSON.



O how great the dignity of man's estate, that human nature, united to God in one Person, should far excel every creature in heaven and in earth.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.



IT is not by attending to our friends in our way, but in *theirs*, that we can really avail them. MARGARET FULLER.

FOR what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose [or forfeit] his own self.—(REVISED VERSION) LUKE ix. 25.



A SACRED burden is this life ye bear;
Look on it, lift it, bear it solemnly;
Stand up, and walk beneath it steadfastly;
Fail not for sorrow, falter not for sin,
But onward, upward, till the goal ye win.

FRANCES ANNE KEMBLE.



TIT is not possible for a Christian man to walk across so much as a rood of the natural earth, with mind unagitated and rightly poised, without receiving strength and hope from some stone, flower, or leaf, or sound; nor without a sense of bliss falling upon him out of the sky.

JOHN RUSKIN.



Two things excite my awe—the infinitely great and the infinitely small.

HINDU.



YES, ye are made immortal on that day
Ye cease the dusty grains of time to weigh.

WM. MORRIS.

*THE counsel of the Lord standeth forever,
the thoughts of his heart to all generations.—
PSALMS xxxiii. 11.*



YOU and I, working in our several spheres, and toiling for earth, may toil also for heaven, and every day's work may be a Jacob's ladder reaching up nearer to our God.

THEODORE PARKER.



TELL me, my secret soul,
 Oh, tell me, Hope and Faith,
Is there no resting place
 From sorrow, sin, and death?
Is there no happy spot
 Where mortals may be bless'd,
Where grief may find a balm,
 And weariness a rest?
Faith, Hope, and Love, best boon to mortals
 given,
Waved their bright wings, and whisper'd,
 “Yes, in heaven.”

CHARLES MACKAY.

WAIT on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.—PSALMS xxvii. 14.



A CHARGE to keep I have,
A God to glorify;
A never dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky.

CHARLES WESLEY.



EVERY time a man bethinks himself that he is not walking in the light, that he has been forgetting himself and must repent, that he has been asleep and must awake, that he has been letting his garments trail and must gird up the loins of his mind—every time this takes place, there is a resurrection in the world.

GEORGE MACDONALD.



OUR sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought.

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.

LEAD me in thy truth, and teach me ; for thou art the God of my salvation : on thee do I wait all the day.—PSALMS XXV. 5.



I NEED not be missed, if another succeed
me,

To reap down those fields which, in spring,
I have sown.

He who plowed and who sowed is not
missed by the reaper ;

He is only remembered by what he has
done.

HORATIUS BONAR.



OUR eyes are holden that we cannot see
things that stare us in the face, until
the hour arrives when the mind is ripened ;
then we behold them, and the time when we
saw them not is like a dream.

R. W. EMERSON.



Do not expect that, in your own strength,
you can make use of even the best oppor-
tunity of doing good.

JEAN INGELOW.

ALL the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.—PSALMS XXV. 10.



How can a man learn to know himself ?
In the measure in which thou seekest to
Do thy duty shall thou know what is in
thee.

But what is thy duty ?
The demand of the hour.

GOETHE.



WE often do more good by our sympathy than by our labor.

CANON FARRAR.



BUT there is something which is sure of success ; it is the determination which, having entered upon a career with full conviction that it is right, pursues it in calm defiance to all opposition. With such a feeling a man cannot but be mighty.

BISHOP THOMSON.



ONE God, one law, one element,
And one far-off divine event,
To which the whole creation moves.

ALFRED TENNYSON.

LET us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith.—HEBREWS x. 22.



THERE is in souls a sympathy with sounds,
And as the mind is pitched the ear is pleased

With melting airs or martial, brisk or grave ;
Some chord in unison with what we hear
Is touched within us, and the heart replies.
How soft the music of those village bells
Falling at intervals upon the ear
In cadence sweet !

W.M. COWPER.



IT is a truth worth remembering, that this mortal life is given to us that we may prepare for life immortal.

S. FRANCIS DE SALES.



IN many things it is wise to believe before experience—until you may know : and believe me when I tell you that the thrift of time will repay you in after life, with an usury of profit beyond your most sanguine dreams, and that the waste of it will make you dwindle, alike in intellectual and in moral stature, beyond your darkest reckonings.

W.M. EWART GLADSTONE.

*THE Lord will give strength unto his people :
the Lord will bless his people with peace.—
PSALMS xxix. 11.*



PLEASANT it is to entertain the picture of ourselves in some future scene, planning wisely, feeling nobly, and executing with the holy triumph of the will : but it is a different thing—not in the green avenues of the future, but in the hot dust of the present moment, to do the duty that waits and wants us.

JAMES MARTINEAU.



WHO made the heart, 'tis He alone
Decidedly can try us ;
He knows each chord—its various tone ;
Each spring—its various bias ;
Then at the balance let's be mute,
We never can adjust it ;
What's done we partly may compute
But know not what's resisted.

ROBERT BURNS.



TIME tries the troth of everything
God sendeth and giveth, both mouth and
the meat. THOMAS TUSSER.

SING unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.—PSALMS XXX. 4.



WHY should we faint and fear to live alone,
Since all alone, so Heaven has willed, we
die;
Nor even the tenderest heart, and next our
own,
Knows half the reasons why we smile or
sigh?

JOHN KEBLE.



'TIS sweet, as year by year we lose
Friends out of sight, in faith to muse
How grows in Paradise our store.

JOHN KEBLE.



THE Christian life is the Christly life.
It is having the mind of Christ. It is
having the spirit of Christ. The Christian
life, the Christly life, is the life of God in
the soul.

J. F. W. WARE.



HERE our love of spiritual things is super-
induced: there [Heaven] it will be our
natural frame.

HANNAH MORE.

*WHAT man is he that feareth the Lord?
him shall he teach in the way that he
shall choose.—PSALMS XXV. 12.*



IN the still air the music lies unheard;
In the rough marble beauty hides
unseen;
To make the music and the beauty needs
The master's touch, the sculptor's chisel
keen.
Great Master, touch us with Thy skillful
hand;
Let not the music that is in us die;
Great Sculptor, hew and polish us; nor let,
Hidden and lost, Thy form within us lie!

HORATIUS BONAR.



THERE is a struggle for love as well as
for food. The web of life is not woven
wholly upon the threads of discord.

HENRY DRUMMOND.



TEACH self-denial and make its practice
pleasurable, and you create for the world a
destiny more sublime than ever issued from
the brain of the wildest dreamer.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

THE secret of the Lord is with them that fear him: and he will shew them his covenant.—PSALMS XXV. 14.



AHOLY life is the very gate of Heaven. But let us always remember that holiness does not consist in doing uncommon things, but in doing everything with purity of heart.

H. MANNING.



HIGHER by far than the power of accumulating is the power of distributing. Hoarding is a capability which man holds in common with the bee, the ant, and the squirrel; but distributing to the wants of others is a power which man is gradually acquiring, and makes him akin to the angels.—*Unity*.



GUARD within yourself that treasure, kindness. Know how to give without hesitation, how to lose without regret, how to acquire without meanness. Know how to replace in your heart, by the happiness of those you love, the happiness that may be wanting in yourself.

F. W. FABER.

*LET integrity and uprightness preserve me ;
for I wait on thee.—PSALMS XXV. 12.*



LIFE is but a day, at best,
Sprung from night, in darkness lost;
Hope not sunshine every hour;
Fear not clouds will always lower.

ROBERT BURNS.



TIT is a sad weakness in us, after all, that the thought of a man's death hallows him anew to us; as if life were not sacred too—as if it were comparatively a light thing to fail in love and reverence to the brother who has to climb the whole toilsome steep with us, and all our tears and tenderness were due to the one who is spared the Hard journey.

GEORGE ELIOT.



SHARE everything you have with someone else, and you will have plenty to give. Is not that why God gave you the things ?

FR. OSBORNE.



MAY we have—“high erected thoughts seated in the heart of courtesy.”

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.

THE Lord is my strength and my shield ; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth : and with my song will I praise him.—PSALMS xxviii. 7.



A poor man served by thee shall make thee rich ;
A sick man helped by thee shall make thee strong ;
Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense
Of service which thou renderest.

MRS. BROWNING.



LIfe should be spent in a strong, continuous effort to improve the apparatus for the guidance of life, both in thought and action. We must ever be trying to know more and more what are the things to be believed and done.

WM. EWART GLADSTONE.



If you enable yourselves to distinguish, by the truth of your own lives, what is true in those of other men, you will perceive that all good has its origin in good, never in evil.

JOHN RUSKIN.

*WAIT on the Lord, and keep his way, and
he shall exalt thee to inherit the land.—
PSALMS XXXVII. 34.*



TIME revels 'mid your dearest joys.
Death smites your brightest rose,
And sin your bower of peace destroys :
Where will ye find repose ?
Ye're wearied in your pilgrim race,
Sharp thorns your path infest :
Come hither, rise to our embrace,
And Christ shall give you rest.

MRS. SIGOURNEY.



THANK God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done, whether you like it or not. Being forced to work, and forced to do your best, will breed in you temperance and self-control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and content, and a hundred virtues which the idle never know.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

WHEN thou saidst, Seek ye my face ; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.—PSALMS xxvii. 8



My fairest child, I have no song to give you ;

No lark would pipe to skies so dull and gray :

Yet, ere we part, one lesson I can leave you,
For every day :

Be good, sweet maid, and let who will be clever,

Do noble things, not dream them, all day long,

And so make life, death and that vast forever

One grand sweet song.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.



EVERY real and searching effort at self-improvement is of itself a lesson of profound humility. For we cannot move a step without learning and feeling the waywardness, the weakness, the vacillation of our movements, or without desiring to be set upon the Rock that is higher than ourselves. W.M. EWART GLADSTONE.

HOWBEIT, when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth.—JOHN xvi. 13.



ABIDE with me from morn till eve,
For without Thee I cannot live ;
Abide with me when night is nigh,
For without Thee I dare not die.

JOHN KEBLE.



COME what may, hold fast to love.
Though men should rend your heart,
let them not embitter or harden it. We
win by tenderness, we conquer by for-
giveness.

F. W. ROBERTSON.



IT is not from the crowded warehouse of prosperity that men first or clearest see the eternal stars of heaven. It is often from the humble spot where we have laid down our dear ones that we find our best observatory, which gives us glimpses into the far-off world of never-ending time.

THEODORE PARKER.

MAN shall not live by bread alone.—MATTHEW iv. 4.



WOEVER tries to do each day's work in the spirit of patient loyalty to God is weaving the texture whose other side is fairer than the one he sees.

DEAN STANLEY.



A CHRISTIAN man's life is lain in the loom of time, to a pattern which he does not see, but God does ; and his heart is the shuttle. On one side of the loom is sorrow, and on the other is joy ; and the shuttle, struck alternately by each, flies back and forth, carrying the thread, which is white or black as the pattern needs ; and in the end, when God shall lift up the finished garment, and all its changing hues shall glance out, it will then appear that the dark and deep colors were as needful to beauty as the bright and high ones.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

*A MAN'S life consisteth not in the abundance
of the things he possessth.—LUKE xii. 15.*



GOD is enough! Thou who in hope and
fear

Toilest through desert sands of life, sore
tried,

Climb trustful over death's black ridge, for
near

The bright wells shine ; thou wilt be satisfied
God doth suffice ! O, thou, the patient one,
Who puttest faith in Him, and none besides,
Bear yet thy load ; under the setting sun
The glad tents gleam ; thou wilt be satis-
fied.

EDWIN ARNOLD.



 UR humanity were a poor thing but for
the divinity which stirs within us.

F. BACON.



WHOEVER fears God, fears to sit at ease.

MRS. BROWNING.



LOVE divine, all love excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down.

A. M. TOPLADY.

BUT as for me, I will walk in mine integrity : redeem me, and be merciful unto me.—PSALMS xxvi. 11.



THERE are some days that die not out,
Nor alter by reflection's power,
Whose converse calm, whose words devout,
Forever rest, the spirit's dower.

And there are days when drops a veil—
A mist upon the distance passed ;
And while we to peace—“ All Hail ! ”
We hope that always it shall last.

JEAN INGELOW.



WHOMEO, under all circumstances, is so faithful a friend, who so powerful a helper in every trouble as Thou, our God. . . Wait a little, and call upon the gracious Lord Jesus, and it shall go well with you after your night's toil.

THOMAS A KEMPIS.

*BE of good courage, and he shall strengthen
your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.—
PSALMS XXXI. 24.*



GIVE unto me, made lowly wise,
The spirit of self-sacrifice ; . . .
The confidence of reason give ;
And, in the light of truth, Thy Bondman
let me live.

WM. WORDSWORTH.



DYOU remember our Lord's beatitude for purity, "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God." . . . Purity of heart purifies the whole soul, and transfigures the commonest life until it shines with almost angelic radiance. "It is purity, gentleness, and grace in the heart, which, like the perfume of a flower, breathes out and bathes all the air about it in sweetness."

J. R. MILLER, D. D.



THERE is always the battle to be fought before the victory is won.

DEAN STANLEY.

IT is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.—LUKE xii. 32.



To guide our feet into the way of peace.—LUKE i. 79.



THUS heavenly hope is all serene;
But earthly hope, how bright so e'er,
Still fluctuates o'er this changing scene,
As false and fleeting as 'tis fair.

REGINALD HEBER.



THEY are never alone that are accompanied with noble thoughts.

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.



TRUTH lies in character. Christ did not simply speak truth; He was truth, through and through; for truth is a thing not of words, but of life and being.

F. W. ROBERTSON.



THERE is always the wine-press to be trodden before we drink the juice of the grapes.

DEAN STANLEY.

*THE Lord knoweth the days of the upright :
and their inheritance shall be forever.—
PSALMS xxxvii. 18.*



SUBMISSION, courage, exertion—these seem to be the weapons with which we must fight life's long battle.

CHARLOTTE BRONTË.



LIFE cannot be spent in a triumphal progress; and is seldom spent without some necessity for retracing false steps.—*Author, Schönberg-Cotta Family.*



OH, for faith and strength to win
Every battle we begin !
Oh, for patience to put through
Every task we planned to do.

JAMES BUCKHAM.



WHERE you are is of no moment, but only what you are doing there. It is not the place that ennobles you, but you the place : and this is only by doing that which is great and noble.

PETRARCH.

He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man.—MATTHEW xiii. 37.



Whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.—RUTH i. 16.



BETTER trust all, and be deceived,
And weep that trust and that deceiving,
Than doubt one heart, that, if believed,
Had blessed one's life with true believing.

FRANCES ANNE KEMBLE.



TIS moral courage that characterizes the highest order of manhood and womanhood, the courage to seek and to speak the truth; the courage to be just; the courage to be honest; the courage to resist temptation; the courage to do one's duty.

SAMUEL SMILES.



OUR character is but the stamp on our souls of the free choice of good or evil we have made through life.

C. GEIKIE.

GOD is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.—PSALMS xlvi. 1.



LIVE for to-day! to-morrow's light
To-morrow's cares shall bring to sight.
Go sleep like closing flowers at night,
And Heaven thy morn will bless.

JOHN KEBLE.



LET us remember that greatness of action depends on two other kinds of greatness; on our appreciation of the greatness of the manner of doing what is good, and our appreciation of the greatness of the occasion when it can be done. . . It has been well said, by an eminent French writer, that the true calling of a Christian is not to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things in an extraordinary way. The most trivial tasks can be accomplished in a noble, gentle, regal spirit, which overrides and puts aside all petty, paltry feelings, and which elevates all little things.

DEAN STANLEY.

*FOR as many as are led by the Spirit of God,
they are the sons of God.—ROMANS viii. 14.*



ROBERT BURNS lamented that he could not “pour out his inmost soul without reserve to any human being, without danger of one day repenting his confidence.” He commenced a journal of his own mental history, “as a substitute,” he said, “for a confidential friend.” He would have something “which he could record himself in,” without peril of having his confidence betrayed. We all need prayer, as a means of such intercourse with a friend who will be true to us. AUSTIN PHELPS.



HOLD fast upon God with one hand, and open wide the other to your neighbor, that is religion ; that is the law and the prophets, and the true way to all better things. GEORGE MACDONALD.



’Tis not the whole of life to live,
Nor all of death to die.

JAMES MONTGOMERY.

AND also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labor, it is the gift of God.—ECCL. iii. 13.



FEW know of life's beginnings—men behold
The goal achieved ; the warrior, when his
sword

Flashes red triumph in the noonday sun ;
The poet, when his lyre hangs on the palm;
The statesman, when the crowd proclaim
his voice,

And mold opinion on his gifted tongue ;
They count not life's first steps, and never
think

Upon the many miserable hours
When hope deferred was sickness to the
heart.

They reckon not the battle and the march,
The long privation of a wasted youth :
They never see the banner till unfurled.

L. E. LANDON.



TELL me upon what you pride yourself,
and I will tell you what you are not.

AMIEL.

*O*H how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee ; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men !—PSALMS XXXI. 19.



LORD of earth, thy bounteous hand
Well this glorious frame hath planned ;
Woods that wave and hills that tower,
Ocean rolling in his power ;
All that strikes the gaze unsought,
All that charms the lonely thought ;
Friendship—gem transcending price ;
Love—a flower from Paradise !
Yet amid this scene so fair,
Should I cease Thy smiles to share,
What were all its joys to me !
Whom have I in earth but Thee ?

SIR ROBERT GRANT.



GOD does not take away trials or carry us over them, but strengthens us through them.

E. B. PUSEY.

BUT it is good for me to draw near to God.—
PSALMS lxxxiii. 28.



ENVY detects the spots in the clear orb of light,
And Love, the little stars in the gloomiest night.

R. C. TRENCH.



IN truthfulness of act, be faith seen.

EDWIN ARNOLD.



KINDNESS, and honesty, and truth, are of themselves, and irrespective of their rightness, sweet unto the taste of the inner man.

THOMAS CHALMERS.



MORNING devotion anchors the soul, so that it will not drift away from God during the day.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON.



THE answer to prayer is slow ; the force of prayer is cumulative. Not till life is over is the whole answer given ; the whole strength it has brought understood.

STOPFORD BROOKE.

SEEK good, and not evil, that you may live.—AMOS v. 15.



ANOTHING deepens the mind so much as a habit of charity. Charity cannot feed on surfaces. Its instinct is always to go deeper. Roots are its natural food. A man's surfaces are always worse than his real depths. . . Self is the only person who does not improve on acquaintance.

FREDERICK W. FABER, D. D.



GOD loves from whole to parts ; but human soul

Must rise from individual to the whole.

Self-love but serves the virtuous mind to wake,

As the small pebble stirs the peaceful lake :
The center moved, a circle straight succeeds,
Another still, and still another spreads ;
Friend, parent, neighbor, first it will embrace ;

His country next, and next all human race;
Wide and more wide, th' o'erflowings of
the mind

Take every creature in, of every kind.

WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE.

*TRULY God is good to Israel, even to such as
are of a clean heart.—PSALMS lxxxiii. 1.*



*My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle.—
JOB vii. 6.*



N the morning fix thy good purpose; and at night examine thyself what thou hast done, how thou hast behaved thyself in word, deed, and thought.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.



ALL that springs out of perverted desire—
Envy and hatred and jealousy's fire,
Gaunt misconceptions, in ignorance bred,
Misunderstandings by selfishness led,
The tongueless silences of the soul's night,
Crude, aimless stirrings toward some phantom height—

These through life's portals may not enter in.

Fruits of iniquity, ignorance, sin.

These are the perishing parts of the soul,
These have no place in the grand perfect whole.

ELIZA LAMB MARTYN.

MY mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditations of my heart shall be of understanding.—PSALMS xlix. 3.



ERE there not two kinds of gift and of charitable work in the world—benevolence and sympathy? The works of benevolence, it seems to me, can be counted, and measured, and reported. But the work of sympathy, who can see or measure that? And yet without the sympathy, which can no more be measured than sunlight, the works of benevolence are apt to stiffen into mere machinery.—*Author, Schönberg-Cotta Family.*



O TIME flies fast, he winna wait
My friend for you or me ;
He works his wonders day by day,
And onward still doth flee.

P. LIVINGSTONE.



MOSES received the tablets from Mt. Sinai, and even we, when weary, lift up our eyes to the hills for strength.

C. H. CAPEN.

*FOR there is no power but of God.—
ROMANS xiii. 1.*



THERE is something prophetic in thought and in emotion. In the heart of our imperfect knowledge there is lodged the hope of a perfect wisdom. At the end of our broken reasonings there shines the light of a higher truth. All our conclusions, all our theories, all our aspirations, point forward. Our very defects are intimations of a future development, and our limitations are but barriers which we are gaining strength to overleap. What is it all worth unless there be a beyond? What are the attainments and acquisitions of our three-score and ten years, unless they are to be completed and perfected and applied in a hereafter? But Reason herself breaks the chains of such a despairing doctrine. She shapes her wings to fly. She anticipates immortality.

H. J. VAN DYKE.



BE patient, be patient : for Patience hath power,

To ward us in danger, like mantle in shower.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

*I WAIT for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and
in his word do I hope.—PSALMS CXXX. 5.*



BUT the life of man upon this earth is made up, for the most part, of little pains and little pleasures. The great wonder-flowers bloom but once in a lifetime.

ANONYMOUS.



THE sea of fortune doth not ever flow,
She draws her favors to the lowest ebb.
Her time hath equal times to come and go,
Her loom doth weave the fine and coarsest
web;
No joy so great but runneth to an end,
Nor hap so hard but may in time amend.

Not always fall of leaf, nor ever spring,
No endless night, yet not eternal day;
The saddest birds a season find to sing,
The roughest storm a calm may soon
allay;
Thus with succeeding turns God tempereth
all,
That man may hope to rise, yet fear to fall.

ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

LET thine hand help me: for I have chosen thy precepts.—PSALMS cxix. 173.



THOUGHT is deeper than all speech,
Feeling deeper than all thought;
Souls to souls can never teach
What unto themselves was taught.

CHRISTOPHER T. CRANCH.



FROM the sunlit heights of life, the deep vales and hollows of its necessities look darkest; but to the faithful whose path lies there, there is still light enough to show the way, and to no other eyes do the everlasting hills and blue heavens seem so brilliant.

JAMES MARTINEAU.



THE serene, silent beauty of a holy life is the most powerful influence in the world next to the might of the spirit of God.

REV. CHARLES H. SPURGEON.



THE character is the radical impress which the will assumes from the series of its acts.

FR. HALL.

MAKE me to go in the path of thy commandments.—PSALMS cxix. 35.



THERE is a beautiful precept which he who has received an injury, or thinks he has, would, for his own sake, do well to follow—"Excuse half, and forgive the rest."

ANONYMOUS.



THE honey-bee that wanders all day long
The field, the woodland, and the garden
o'er,

To gather in his fragrant winter store,
Humming in calm content his quiet song,
Seeks not alone the rose's glowing breast,
The lily's dainty cup, the violet's lips,
But from all rank and noxious weeds he
sips

The single drop of sweetness closely pressed
Within the poison chalice. Thus, if we
Seek only to draw forth the hidden sweet
In all the varied human flowers we meet
In all the wide garden of humanity,
And, like the bee, if home the spoil we
bear,

Hived in our hearts it turns to nectar there.

MRS. ANNE (LYNCH) BOTTA.

YOUR Father knoweth what things ye have need of.—MATTHEW vi. 8.



LOVE, Truth, and Beauty—all are one !

If life may expiate
The wilderings of its dimness, death be known

But as the mighty ever-living gate
Into the Beautiful—

All things flow on
Into one Heart, into one Melody, Eternally.

WM. JAMES LINTON.



PREPARE thy soul to obey; such offering will be more acceptable to God than every other sacrifice.

METASTASIO.



ILL weeds grow apace—covetousness, discontent, and murmuring are as natural to man as thorns are to the soil. We need not sow thistles and brambles; they come up naturally enough, because they are indigenous to earth: but the precious things of the earth must be cultivated.

REV. CHARLES H. SPURGEON.

WE then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.—ROMANS XV. 1.



For if a man find his enemy, will he let him go well away? wherefore the Lord reward thee good, for that thou hast done unto me this day.

SAUL TO DAVID.



OFT, unknowingly, the tongue
Touches on a chord so aching
That a word or accent wrong
Pains the heart almost to breaking.
Many a tear of wounded pride,
Many a fault of human blindness,
Has been soothed or turned aside
By a voice of quiet kindness.

HANNAH MORE.



WE can hardly tell what we should have been had we been treated less kindly than we have been. Have we not sometimes been on the verge of doing something which a life would have been short to repent of?

FREDERICK W. FABER.

*M*ARK the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace.
—PSALMS xxxvii. 37.



MAKE thy life
A gift of use to thee;
A joy, a good, a golden hope,
A heavenly argosy.

B. W. PROCTER.



THE life here and the life hereafter are one. There is but one ideal set before us. We are to think by it, work by it, aspire to it in this world, and then, lest our heart fail at the sad disparity between us and the divine type, lo! the heavens are opened to us, and we see our Lord putting His own hand to our work so feebly begun. He presents us at last faultless to His Father and our Father, before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.

JACOB H. ECOB.



LOVE is the emblem of eternity.

MME. DE STAËL.



Do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.—MICAH vi. 8.

*FOR he is our God ; and we are the people
of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
To-day if ye will hear his voice.—PSALMS
xcv. 7.*



I BELIEVE it ! 'Tis thou, God, that givest,
'tis I who receive:
In the first is the last, in Thy will is my
power to believe;
All's one gift : Thou canst grant it more-
over, as prompt to my prayer,
As I breathe out this breath, as I open these
arms to the air.

ROBERT BROWNING.



IT is right to look our self-accounts
bravely in the face now and then, and
to settle them bravely.

CHARLOTTE BRONTË.



THE thoughts which nestle within us, and
issue from us in language and in act, deter-
mine our moral character. The most ex-
quisite piece of sculpture which a Powers
or a Palmer ever carved, was once only
a thought.

THEODORE L. CUYLER.

In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.—PSALMS lvi. 4.



HUMBLE man is a joyous man. There is no worship where there is no joy. For worship is something more than either the fear of God or the love of Him. It is delight in Him.

FREDERICK W. FABER.



WE judge men by our own standards: judge our nearest and dearest often wrong.

THACKERAY.



ANGELS of light, spread your bright wings
and keep

Near me at morn;

Nor in the starry eve, nor midnight deep,
Leave me forlorn.

From all foreboding thoughts and dangerous fears

Keep me secure.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

To depart from evil is understanding.—JOB xxviii. 1, 28.



THREE is no noble life save that which is lived above the uncharitableness, the discontent, which fills human intercourse every day. . . At the last there can be no beauty for you or me but the beauty of holiness.

MRS. MARY CLEMMER HUDSON.



THERE is no road to the attainment of the ideal except by a bold and successful dealing with the real.

ANONYMOUS.



NAY ; song and love and lofty aims
May never be where faith is not :
Strong souls within the present live ;
The future veiled, the past forgot :
Grasping what is, with hands of steel,
They bend alike to doubt and dread,
The end, for which they are, fulfill.

LEWIS MORRIS.

*BLESSED are they that keep judgment, and
he that doeth righteousness at all times.—
PSALMS cvi. 3.*



COMMONPLACE though it may appear, this doing of one's duty embodies the highest ideal of life and character. There may be nothing heroic about it ; but the common lot of men is not heroic.

SAMUEL SMILES.



THE most delicate, the most sensible of all pleasure, consists in promoting the pleasure of others. LA BRUYÈRE.



THERE is no action so slight nor so mean but it may be done to a great purpose, and ennobled therefor ; nor is any purpose so great but that slight actions may help it, may be so done as to help it much, most especially that chief of all purposes—the pleasing of God. JOHN RUSKIN.



THIS is the vital principle in Christian life ; we can give out to others only what God has given to us.

REV. J. R. MILLER, D. D.

O GIVE thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.—PSALMS CV. 1.



TO be our own is to be full of anxiety.
To be His is to cast all our care upon
Him. ANONYMOUS.



OUR Father rules ! why should we shrink in
fear ;
Why should we mourn because our path is
drear ?
Why heed the petty ills that line life's way ;
Mere wayside weeds, they flourish for a
day ;
Immortal life is ours ! and heaven is near.

JULIA A. F. CARNEY.



HE in whom God lives, liveth evermore.

DINAH MULOCK CRAIK.



WE know that Heaven chastens those
whom it loves best ; being pleased, by
repeated trials, to make . . . pure spirits
more pure. THACKERAY.



FREELY ye have received, freely give.—
MATTHEW X. 8.

MY meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord.—PSALMS civ. 34.



MY idea is this : ever onward. If God had intended that man should go backward, he would have given him an eye in the back of his head. Let us look always toward the dawn, the blossom-time, the hour of birth. VICTOR HUGO.



ONWARD forever flows the tide of Life,
Still broadening, gathering to itself the rills
That made dim music in the primal hills,
And tossing crested waves of joy and strife,
We watch it rising where no seeds are rife,
But fire the elemental vortex fills ;
Through plant and beast it streams, till
human wills

Unfold the sanctities of human life.
Further we see not. But here faith joins
hands

With reason. Life that onward came to us
From simple to more complex, still must
flow

Forward and forward through far wider
lands.

JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS.

EVERY one that loveth is born of God.—
I JOHN iv. 7.



WE cannot measure the strength and peace and hope and joy which is brought to many a troubled soul by the thought of any pure and blameless youth, even in the humblest station of life, struggling manfully and successfully against the evil influences which would lead him astray from the paths of innocence. . . May God bless them, whoever and wherever they may be, for the inestimable blessing which they unconsciously, but most surely, confer on the world.

DEAN STANLEY.



IF you have known yourself to have failed, you may trust, when it comes, the strange consciousness of success; if you have faithfully loved the noble work of others, you need not fear to speak of things duly done, of your own.

JOHN RUSKIN.

LIGHT is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.—PSALMS xcvi. 11.



EVERY yesterday is talking to, instructing to-day. . . We must live in, and because of, yesterdays. Their life enters into ours. Not only yesterday speaks to to-day, but what yesterday says decides what to-day is. He lives well and wisely who has the speech of each day as it goes, who hears and heeds the voice it utters.

J. F. W. WARE.



WHEN a great man has a dark corner in him, it is terribly dark.

GOETHE.



PROVIDENCE is like a curious piece of needlework, made up of a thousand shreds, which, singly, we know not what to make of, but put together in order, they represent a beautiful history to the eye.

FLAVEL.



I COUNSEL thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire.—REV. iii. 18.

*THE heaven is my throne, and the earth is
my footstool.—ISAIAH lxvi. 1.*



HAVE some convictions, some real opinions, some worthy hopes; and be loyal to, and in earnest about, whatever you do pin your faith to.

MRS. J. EWING.



CONSCIENCE is nothing else but the echo of God's voice within the soul.

FR. HALL.



O LORD my God, 'tis early dawn,
And I would walk with Thee to-day !
Clothe me in garments white and clean,
All bright and beautiful, I pray.
Grant I may walk with greatest care,
So I may keep their luster bright;
To-day, my Father, hear my prayer,
And let me walk with Thee in white.

S. J. CURRIER.



GOD dwells in the soul whose stainless days
Are sweet in His sight as a hymn of praise.

FRANCES T. GILL.

NOT every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.—MATTHEW vii. 21.



TRUE knowledge leads to love;
True dignity abides with him alone
Who, in the silent hour of inward thought,
Can still respect and still revere himself,
In lowliness of heart.

WM. WORDSWORTH.



REVERENCE is the chief joy and power of life: reverence for that which is pure and bright in youth; for what is true and tried in age; for all that is gracious among the living, great among the dead, and marvelous in the powers that cannot die.

JOHN RUSKIN.



ALL the grandest enterprises of benevolence, and all the most stupendous crimes, were once only invisible phantoms in some man's or woman's busy brain. . . . The very Bible is only God's blessed and holy *thought* revealed to us; by it we are made wise unto salvation.

THEODORE L. CUYLER.

THE effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.—JAMES V. 16.



IF instead of a gem, or even a flower, we could cast the gift of a lovely thought into the heart of a friend, that would be giving as the angels must give.

GEORGE MACDONALD.



NEGLECT not to improve life in the present with superior persons: for opportunity is precious.

Persian—SAADI.



WHAT I must do is all that concerns me, not what the people think. It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion: it is easy in solitude to live after our own: but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps, with perfect sweetness, the independence of solitude.

R. W. EMERSON.



GOD does not demand impossibilities. Do what you can.

ST. AUGUSTINE.

O SING unto the Lord a new song : for he hath done marvelous things.—PSALMS xcviij. 1.



“WHAT shall I do to gain eternal life ?
Discharge aright
The simple dues with which each day is
rife ?”
Yea, with thy might.
Ere perfect scheme of action thou devise,
Will life be fled ;
While he who ever acts as conscience cries,
Shall live, though dead.

SCHILLER.



TIT was once said in mournful complaint of the highest ecclesiastic in Christendom. “For the sake of gaining to-day, he has thrown away to-morrow forever.” Be our policy the reverse of this; be it ours to fasten our thoughts, not on the passions and parties of the brief to-day, but on the hopes of the long to-morrow. The day, the year may perchance belong to the destructives, the cynics, and the partisans. But the morrow . . . belongs to the catholic, comprehensive, discriminating, all-embracing Christianity.

DEAN STANLEY.

SHALL the clay say to him that fashioneth it, what makest thou?—ISAIAH xlvi. 9.



THE sense of right can more readily indurate the tender than melt the rocky soul, and that is the most finished character which begins in beauty and ends in power; that leans on the love of kindred while it may, and when it may not can stand erect in the love of God; that shelters itself amid the domesticities of life while duty wills, and when it forbids can go forth under the expanse of immortality, and face any storm that beats, and traverse any wilderness that lies beneath that canopy.

JAMES MARTINEAU.



IF what shows afar so grand.
Turn to nothing in thy hand,
On again; the virtue lies
In the struggle, not the prize.

R. M. MILNES.



WISE in heart, and mighty in strength.—
JOB ix. 4.

LOVE is of God.—1 JOHN iv. 7.

SOME little act done, all secretly and unknown, for Jesus, is not forgotten by Him; every victory gained over some habit, or temper, or inclination; every earnest and prayerful resolution carried into effect by His spirit helping you, does not lose its reward. C. I. ATHERTON.



BE patient; oh, be patient! put your ear against the earth,
Listen there how noiselessly the germ o' the seed has birth;
How noiselessly and gently it upheaves its little way,
Till it parts the scarcely broken ground,
and the blade stands up in the day.

RICHARD C. TRENCH.



LEAN, then, securely on the Eternal Law, which underlies all life and death.

DEAN STANLEY.



SERVE the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.—PSALMS C. 2.

AND now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self.—JOHN xvii. 5.



KIND thoughts are rarer than either kind words or kind deeds. They imply a great deal of thinking about others. . . They imply also a great deal of thinking about others without the thoughts being criticisms. . . But kind thoughts imply also a contact with God, and a divine ideal in our minds.

FREDERICK W. FABER.



THERE are tones that will haunt us, though lonely
 Our path be o'er mountain or sea;
 There are looks that will part from us only
 When memory ceases to be;
 There are hopes which our burden can
 lighten,
 Though toilsome and steep be the way;
 And dreams that, like moonlight, can
 brighten,
 With a light that is clearer than day.

WINTHROP MACKWORTH PRAED.

*GLORY ye in his holy name : let the heart
of them rejoice that seek the Lord.—
PSALMS CV. 3.*



DOES the road wind up hill all the way ?

Yes! to the very end.

But will the journey take the whole long
day ?

From morn till night, my friend.

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI.



“ And for success, I ask no more than this :
To bear unflinching witness to the truth.”

WHAT can we say of success in life—
that noble success which is not
merely that of personal pride but of
general advancement—that is truer than
these words? and how can anyone “ bear
unflinching witness to the truth ” who
knows little and cares less what the truth
of to-day is?

LILIAN WHITING.



DESTINY is not
About thee, but within; thyself must make
Thyself the agonizing throes of Thought:
These bring forth glory, bring forth
destiny.

COATES KINNEY.

THEY helped everyone his neighbour ; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage.—ISAIAH xli. 6.



BUT the great reasons are self-command and trust unagitated, and deep-looking Love, and Faith, which, as she is above Reason, so she best holds the reins of it from her high seat. JOHN RUSKIN.



THE straightest way, perhaps, which may be sought
Lies through the great highway men call—
I ought. ANONYMOUS.



WORDS are good; but there is something better.

The best is not to be explained by words.
The spirit in which we act is the chief matter.
Action can only be understood and represented by the spirit.

GOETHE.



AH, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a Heaven for?

ROBERT BROWNING.

SEEK the Lord, and his strength : seek his face evermore.—PSALMS CV. 4.



THE Christian is he whose life-work glows and grows under his hand; who is conscious of an unceasing call for strenuous activity; who takes for his watchword the great apostle's question, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”

REV. A. P. PEABODY.



. . . FAR through the misty future,
With a crown of starry light,
An hour of joy you know not
Is winging her silent flight.

Pray : though the gift you ask for
May never comfort your fears,
May never repay your pleading,
Yet pray, and with hopeful tears
An answer—not that you long for,
But diviner—will come one day:
Your eyes are too dim to see it,
Yet strive, and wait, and pray.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.—PSALMS CXXI. 1.



. . . THE high-born soul
Disdains to rest her heaven-aspiring wing
Beneath its native quarry. Tired of Earth
And this diurnal scene, she springs aloft
Through fields of air ; pursues the flying
 storm ;
Rides on the volleyed lightning through the
 heavens ;
Or, yoked with whirlwinds and the northern
 blast,
Sweeps the long tract of day. . .

. . . For, from the birth
Of mortal man, the sovereign Maker said
That not in humble nor in brief Delight,
The soul should find enjoyment : but from
 these,
Turning disdainful to an equal good,
Through all the ascent of things enlarge
 her view,
Till every bound at length should disappear,
And infinite perfection close the scene.

MARK AKENSIDE.

GOD is love.—I JOHN iv. 8.



Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we shoul'd be called the sons of God.—I JOHN iii. 1.



MAY I reach
That purest heaven ; be to other souls
The cup of strength in some great agony,
Enkindle generous ardor, feed pure love,
Beget the smiles that have no cruelty,
Be the sweet presence of a good diffused,
And in diffusion even more intense.
So shall I join the choir invisible
Whose music is the gladness of the world.

GEORGE ELIOT.



GOD is a kind Father. He sets us all in the places where He wishes us to be employed, and that employment is truly “our Father’s business.” . . And we may always be sure, whatever we are doing, that we cannot be pleasing Him if we are not happy ourselves.

JOHN RUSKIN.

UNTO the upright there ariseth light in the darkness : he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.—PSALMS CXII. 4.



BE wise to do good. Invent ways, create means, find subjects.

There is also the importance of keeping in touch with life. . . To touch life at all points—to touch it with some perception of its ideal possibilities and of its actual realization, and to hold the golden mean of fidelity to noble standards and charity for imperfect results is the education in that education which makes wisdom.

LILIAN WHITING.



LOVE all, trust a few,
Do wrong to none : be able for thine enemy
Rather in power than use ; and keep thy
friend
Under thy own life's key: be checked for
silence,
But never taxed for speech.

WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE.

*GREAT peace have they which love thy law:
and nothing shall offend them.—PSALMS
cxix. 165.*



E GOOD deed is never lost ; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.

BASIL.



You resemble the spirit which you understand.

GOETHE.



THE traces of human deeds fade swiftly away from the sunlighted earth, as the transient shades of thought from the brow, but nothing is lost and dissipated, which the rolling hours, replete with secrets, have received into their dark, creative bosom. Time is a blooming field ; nature is ever teeming with life, and all is seed and all is fruit.

SCHILLER.



NOT wealth, nor ancestry, but honorable conduct and a noble disposition will make men great.

OVID.



My heart trusted in him, and I am helped.
—PSALMS xxviii. 7.

THEY that sow in tears shall reap in joy.—
PSALMS CXXVI. 5.



IN the common things of everyday life
the soul must prove her presence and
power, if they be proved at all.

REV. ANNIS L. EASTMAN.



KNOW, then, this truth (enough for man to
know),
“Virtue alone is happiness below.”

Slave to no sect, who takes no private road,
But looks through nature up to Nature's
God ;
Pursues that chain which links the immense
design,
Joins heaven and earth, and mortal and
divine ;
Sees that no being any bliss can know
But touches some above and some below :
Learns from this union of the rising whole
The first, last purpose of the human soul ;
And knows where faith, law, morals all
began,
All end in love of God, and love of man.

WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE.

THERE is a spirit in man : and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.—JOB xxxii. 8.



DISCOURAGEMENT serves no possible purpose ; it is simply the despair of wounded self-love. Nothing but the consciousness of your own weakness can make you indulgent and pitiful to that of others. Love God, and you will be humble ; love God, and you will throw off the love of self ; love God, and you will love all that He gives you to love for love of Him.

FÉNELON.



DOING good is the only certainly happy action of a man's life.

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.



EVERY sound that breaks the silence only makes it more profound,
Like a crash of deafening thunder in the sweet blue stillness drowned ;
Let thy soul walk softly in thee, as a saint in heaven unshod,
For to be alone with silence is to be alone with God.

SAMUEL MILLER HAGEMAN.

*NOW faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.—
HEBREWS xi. 1.*



RELEASED from earth's dull round of cares,
The aspiring soul her vigor tries;
Plumes her soiled pinions, and prepares
To soar amid ethereal skies.

Around us float in changing light
The dazzling forms of distant years,
And earth becomes a glorious sight,
Beyond which opening heaven appears.

O. W. P. PEABODY.



WHAT appears at sight
Extremely heavy, love will make most light.
CHRISTOPHER HARVEY.



IF the heart was rightly disposed every creature would be a book of divine knowledge.
THOMAS À KEMPIS.

GIVE us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man.—PSALMS cviii. 12.



THE effective life and the receptive life are one. No sweep of arm that does some work for God but harvests also some more of the truth of God, and sweeps it into the treasury of life.

JOANNA BAILLIE.



“WITH joy the stars perform their shining,
And the sea its long, moon-silvered roll;
For alone they live, nor pine with noting
All the fever of some differing soul.

“Bounded by themselves, and unobservant
In what state God’s other works may be,
In their own tasks all their powers pouring,
These attain the mighty life you see.”

O air-born voice ! long since severely clear,
A cry like thine in my own heart I hear:
“Resolve to be thyself ; and know that he
Who finds himself loses his misery.”

MATTHEW ARNOLD.



"WITH JOY THE STARS PERFORM THEIR SHINING
AND THE SEA ITS LONG, MOON-SILVERED ROLL."

—Tennyson, Page 128.

*B*E thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.—*I TIMOTHY iv. 12.*



IF vexing thoughts within me rise,
And sore dismayed my spirit dies,
Still He, who once vouchsafed to bear
The sickening anguish of despair,
Shall sweetly soothe, shall gently dry,
The throbbing heart, the streaming eye.

SIR ROBERT GRANT.



ELWAYS the unseen will be more than the seen; always the unknown will encompass and interfuse the known; always we must walk by faith more than by sight. The higher we aspire and reach, the further will the ideal recede; the purer and truer we become, the more commanding will be our sense of right, and the more sweet and strong will be the attractions of the true, the beautiful, and the good.

REV. CHARLES G. AMES.



WITH a strong soul, and a noble aim, one can do what one wills, morally speaking.

SAMUEL SMILES.

*ALL things work together for good to them
that love God.—ROMANS viii. 28.*



SPEAK gently ! 'tis a little thing,
Dropped in the heart's deep well;
The good, the joy, that it may bring,
Eternity shall tell.

G. W. LANGFORD.



THE only way to regenerate the world is
to do the duty which lies nearest to us,
and not to hunt after grand, far-fetched
ones for ourselves.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.



As it has been written “Reign thou in
the midst of thine enemies”; not he,
therefore, hath peace whom none troubleth;
this is the peace of the world; but he whom
all men and all things trouble, yet who
beareth all these things quietly, with joy.

MRS. CHARLES.



ALL are but parts of one stupendous whole,
Whose body Nature is, and God the soul.

ALEXANDER POPE.

FOR I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord ; thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give to you an expected end.—

JEREMIAH XXIX. 11.



MAN is in loss except he live aright,
And help his fellow to be firm and brave,
Faithful and patient : then the restful
night.

EDWIN ARNOLD.



TOW I want you to think that in life troubles will come, which seem as if they never would pass away. The night and the storm look as if they would last forever; but the calm and the morning cannot be stayed; the storm in its very nature is transient. The effort of nature, as that of the human heart, ever is to return to its repose, for God is Peace.

GEORGE MACDONALD.



ONE of the highest of spiritual luxuries is the enjoyment of pure and exhilarating and sublime thoughts.

THEODORE L. CUYLER.

BUT let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice; let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.—PSALMS V. 11.



THE best remedy for the dislike we feel toward anyone is to endeavor to try and do them a little good every day: the best cure for their dislike to us is to try and speak kindly of them.—*Gold Dust.*



THERE is nothing so powerful as *example*. We put others straight by walking straight ourselves.

MME. SWETCHINE.



LIKE as the armèd knight,
Appointed to the field,
With this world will I fight,
And faith shall be my shield.
Faith is that weapon strong
Which will not fail at need.

ANNE ASKEW.



THOUGH youth and spring-time hope return no more,
God's mercies are repeated o'er and o'er.

B. G. MASON.

FOR the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.—PROVERBS ii. 6.



EVERYWHERE in creation there is a charm, the fountain of which is invisible. In the natural, the moral, and the spiritual world, it is the same. We are constantly referring it to causes which are only effects. Faith alone reveals to us its true origin.

FREDERICK W. FABER, D. D.



Pour forth thy fervors for a healthful mind,
Obedient passions, and a will resigned :
For love, which scarce collective man can
fill ;
For patience, sovereign o'er transmuted
ill ;
For faith that, panting for a happier seat,
Counts death kind Nature's signal of retreat;
These goods for man the laws of Heaven
ordain,

With these celestial Wisdom calms the mind,
And makes the happiness she does not find.

SAMUEL JOHNSON.

A WISE man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.—PROVERBS i. 5.



FATHER in heaven, hear us to-day,
Hallowed Thy name be ; hear us, we pray !
Oh, let Thy kingdom come !
Oh, let Thy will be done
By all below the sun
As in the skies.

REV. CHARLES G. AMES.



THE more and the better we know and understand, the more strictly shall we be judged unless our lives are also more holy.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.



THE largest and most comprehensive natures are generally the most cheerful, the most loving, the most hopeful, the most trustful. It is the wise man, of large vision, who is the quickest to discern the moral sunshine gleaming through the darkest cloud.

SAMUEL SMILES.

*THAT thou mayest walk in the way of good
men, and keep the paths of the righteous.*

—PROVERBS ii. 20.



THE minutes have their trusts as they go by,

To bear Thy love who wing'st their view-
less flight;

To Thee they bear their record as they fly,

And never from their ceaseless round
alight.

Rich with the life Thou liv'st they come to
me—

Oh! may I all that life to others show;
That they from strife may rise and rest in
Thee,

And all thy peace in Christ by me may
know.

Then shall the morning call me from my rest,

With joyful hope that I Thy child may
live;

And when the evening comes, 'twill make
me blest

To know that Thou wilt peaceful slumber
give;

Such as Thou dost to weary laborers send,
Whose sleep from Thee doth with the dew
descend.

JONES VERY.

*WHEN wisdom entereth into thine heart,
and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul:
Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding
shall keep thee.—PROVERBS ii. 10-11.*



THE possible stands by us ever fresh.
Fairer than aught which any life hath
owned. JEAN INGELOW.



PEOPLE may talk about the selfishness of humanity as much as they like, I never will believe that it is “everyone for himself,” unless we choose to set the world the example. Men like the kindly look, the bright smile, the warm clasp of the hand; there is as much truth as sentimentality in the words of the song:

“ ’Tis love
That makes the world go round.”

EDITH ROBINSON.



THE pleasantest things in the world are pleasant thoughts, and the great art in life is to have as many of them as possible.

BOVEL.

*THOU shalt enlarge my heart.—PSALMS
cxix. 32.*



PERSONALITY merely, in the sense of self-consciousness and will, would not constitute a Being fitted to attract us, if unaccompanied with the attributes of a distinctively moral nature. Mere power might awe and crush us, but it could not command our love, or the consent of our moral nature to its requirements. But the conception of God revealed by Moses adds, forthwith, all the special characteristics which attract the reverence and constrain the heart.

C. GEIKIE, D. D.



HE comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.
Our glad Hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heaven's eternal arches sing
With Thy belovèd name.

PHILIP DODDRIDGE.

FOR my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.—MATTHEW xi. 30.



OUR many deeds, the thoughts that we have thought,

They go out from us thronging every hour;
And in them all is folded up a power
That on the earth doth move them to and fro;
And mighty are the marvels they have wrought

In hearts we know not, and may never know.

F. W. FABER.

ALTHOUGH genius always commands admiration, character most secures respect. The former is more the product of brain-power, the latter of heart-power; and in the long run it is the heart that rules in life. Men of genius stand to society in the relation of its intellect, as men of character of its conscience; and while the former are admired, the latter are followed.

SAMUEL SMILES.



CONVEY thy love to thy friend as an arrow to the mark, to stick it there; not as a ball against the wall to rebound back again.

QUARLES.

WITH what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.—MATTHEW vii. 2.



A SAFE stronghold our God is still,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He'll help us clear from all the ill
That hath us now o'er taken.

MARTIN LUTHER.



PRAY modestly as to the things of this life; earnestly for what may be helps to your salvation; intensely for salvation itself, that you may ever behold God, love God. Practice in life whatever you pray for, and God will give it you more abundantly. E. B. PUSEY.



ONE is so apt to think that what works smoothest works to the highest ends, having no patience for the results of friction.

MRS. EWING.



IT is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do little. Do what you can. SYDNEY SMITH.

LET not mercy and truth forsake thee : bind them about thy neck: write them upon the table of thine heart.—PROVERBS iii. 3.



WUR failures—above all, our noble failures—are part and parcel of our spiritual growth. When we go before God, the failures will go to the great account; they will be elements in the judgment, as instrumental and effective as any of our successes.

SCOTT HOLLAND.



LORD, have mercy when we pray
Strength to seek a better way:
When our wakening thoughts begin
First to loathe their cherished sin:
When our weary spirits fail,
And our aching brows are pale;
When our tears bedew Thy word,
Then, O then, have mercy, Lord.

DEAN MILMAN.



IF our doubts do not prevail so far as to make us leave off praying, our prayers will prevail so far as to make us leave off doubting.

H. HICKMAN.

WITHOLD not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.—PROVERBS iii. 27.



FATHER in heaven, hear us to-day;
Hallowed Thy name be; hear us, we pray!
Giver of daily food,
Fountain of truth and good,
Be all our hearts imbued
With love like Thine.

REV. CHARLES G. AMES.



THE impulse of spiritual life produces two results. First, it puts a man in the way of self-improvement. He begins to expand and advance. Love works more deeply in his heart; light shines more clearly in his intelligence; new power shows itself in his will; he becomes more of a man and a better man—a higher order of being. Next he begins to do the work of a god; he becomes a working cause—a creator of good; the impulse of spiritual life passes from him to others.

REV. CHARLES G. AMES.

SAY not unto thy neighbor, Go, and come again, and to-morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.—PROVERBS iii. 28.



HOT long before her death, in writing to a friend, Mrs. Mary Clemmer Hudson said: “Though I am not old, I have sounded the deeps and the shadows of all that is called society, till I feel all through my heart of hearts that all that is of real value to the lowly contrite spirit is the clear mind, the loving, consecrated heart; all else is emptiness, vanity, vexation of soul.”



“Not to myself alone,”
The circling Star, with honest pride, doth boast;

“Not to myself alone I rise and set:
I write upon night’s coronal of jet
His power and skill who formed our myriad host;

A friendly beacon at heaven’s open gate,
I gem the sky,

That man might ne’er forget, in every fate,
His home on high.”

SAMUEL WM. PARTRIDGE.

*BE not wise in thine own eyes ; fear the Lord,
and depart from evil.—PROVERBS iii. 7.*



WORDS are mighty, words are living :
Serpents with their venomous stings,
Or bright angels crowding round us
With heaven's light upon their wings.
Every word has its own spirit,
True or false, that never dies ;
Every word man's lips have uttered
Echoes in God's skies.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTOR.



TIT makes the mind very free when we give up wishing, and only think of bearing what is laid upon us, and doing what is given us to do. GEORGE ELIOT.



IT was in such a little thing as the breaking of bread that Christ revealed himself.

EDITH ROBINSON.

STRIVE not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.—PROVERBS iii. 30.



FATHER in heaven, hear us to-day ;
Hallowed Thy name be ; hear us, we pray !
Lead us in paths of right,
Save us from sin and blight,
King of all love and might,
Glorious for aye.

REV. CHARLES G. AMES.



LOVE is divine, and then most divine
when it loves according to needs, and
not according to merit.

GEORGE MACDONALD.



I AM of the opinion that the Bible contains more true sublimity, more exquisite beauty, more pure morality, more important history, and purer strains of poetry and eloquence than can be collected from all other books, in whatever age or language they may have been written.

SIR WILLIAM JONES.



EVERY man can be a prophet and should be.

L. CLARK SEELYE.

FOR whatsoever is born of God, overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.—I JOHN v. 4.



E TEMPLE there has been upon earth, a spiritual temple made up of living stones ; a temple as I may say composed of souls ; a temple with God for its light, and Christ for the High Priest, with wings of angels for its arches, with saints and teachers for its pillars, and with worshippers for its pavement. Wherever there is faith and love this temple is.

J. H. NEWMAN.



THE common problem, yours, mine, every-one's

Is—not to fancy what were fair in life,
Provided it could be—but finding first
What may be, then find how to make it fair
Up to our means.

ROBERT BROWNING.



I WONDER many times that any child of God should have a sad heart.

CANON FARRAR.

HEAR, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.—PROVERBS iv. 1, 2.



'Tis easy to be gentle when
Death's silence shames our clamor,
And easy to discern the best
Through memory's mystic glamour ;
But wise it were for thee and me,
Ere love is past forgiving,
To take the tender lesson home—
Be patient with the living.

MARGARET E. SANGSTER.



THERE is a sufficient recompense in the very consciousness of a noble deed.

ANONYMOUS.



We should deal with each other as God deals with us.

GOETHE.



LET us leave off concerning ourselves about what God will do. . . . He will do his part ; let us do ours.

REV. CHARLES G. AMES.

WISDOM is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.—PROVERBS iv. 7.



JESUS, I love Thee—not because
I hope for heaven thereby,
Nor yet because, if I love not,
I must forever die.

I love Thee, Saviour, dear, and still
I ever will love Thee,
Solely because my God Thou art,
Who first hast lovèd me.

FRANCIS XAVIER.



HOWEVER good you may be, you have faults; however dull you may be, you can find out what some of them are: and, however slight they may be, you had better make some effort to get quit of them.

JOHN RUSKIN.



MANY a so-called follower of Christ follows Him only to stone Him.

EDITH ROBINSON.

THE way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble. My son, attend to my words: incline thine ear unto my sayings.—PROVERBS iv. 19, 20.



We may not know indeed
The whys, the wherefores of each life!
But this we know—there's One who sees
And watches us through joy or strife.
Each life its mission here fulfills,
And only He may know the end,
And loving Him we may be strong,
Tho' storm or sunshine He may send.

BERNARD FONTAINE.



CONSECRATION is not wrapping one's self in a holy web in the sanctuary; it is going into the world and using every power for God's glory.

H. W. BEECHER.



If any man will come after me, let him deny himself.—MATTHEW xvi. 24.



THE way of the Lord is strength to the upright.—PROVERBS x. 29.

THAT was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.—JOHN i. 9.



IT is clear that there are irreducible uncertainties in life—things which God does not intend us to know beforehand; and the wise attitude toward such things is not less truly than beautifully expressed in the following lines:

“ I see not a step before me,
As I tread on another year,
But the past is still in God’s keeping,
The future His mercy shall clear,
And what looks dark in the distance
May brighten as I draw near.

•
“ It may be He keeps waiting,
Till the coming of my feet,
Some gift of such rare blessedness,
Some joy so strangely sweet,
That my lips shall only tremble
With the thanks they cannot speak.”

MARY G. BRAINERD.

LET thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.—PROVERBS iv. 25, 26.



REASON is not the only interpreter of life. The fountain of action is in the feelings.

H. T. TUCKERMAN.



JUDGE not, because thou canst not judge aright.

Not much thou know'st thyself, yet better far

Than thou know'st others! Language is at war

With purposes; appearances must fight.

• • • • •

Rather let Christ's great wisdom be confessed,

Who taxed rash judgment as this world's worst leaven,

And the worst temper for the courts of heaven.

CHAUNCY HARE TOWNSHEND.

FOR wisdom is better than rubies ; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.—PROVERBS viii. 11.



TURN not thine eyes upon the backward view;

Let us look forward into sunny days,

Welcome with joyous hearts the victory.

SCHILLER.



(W)NE of the most valuable and one of the most infectious examples which can be set before the young, is that of cheerful working. Cheerfulness gives elasticity to the spirit, specters fly before it; difficulties cause no despair, for they are encountered with hope, and the mind acquires that happy disposition to improve opportunities which rarely fails of success.

SAMUEL SMILES.



THE glory I shall seek is to know that my aim is infinite, and yet never pause in my course.

SCHLIERMACHER.



TRY, then, to work a little less from the outside, and a little more from within.

FÉNELON.

TREASURES of wickedness profit nothing; but righteousness delivereth from death.—PROVERBS x. 2.



GOD of the light and viewless air!

Where summer breezes sweetly flow,
Or, gathering in their angry might,
The fierce and wintry tempests blow—
All—from the evening's plaintive sigh,

That hardly lifts the drooping flower,
To the wild whirlwind's midnight cry—
Breathe forth the language of thy power.

God of the fair and open sky!

How gloriously above us springs
The tented dome of heavenly blue
Suspended on the rainbow's wings!
Each brilliant star that sparkles through,
Each gilded cloud that wanders free,
In evening's purple radiance, gives
The beauty of its praise to thee.

O. W. P. PEABODY.



THE sweetness of the hidden God is the delight of life.

FREDERICK W. FABER.

THAT like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.—ROMANS vi. 4.



IF I were bewildered in the mazes of modern speculation about faith, I would resolve not to be all my life the victim of mere intellectual subtleties, but would reach up and grasp the noblest and fullest faith I can see, hold on to it, live in in it and by it, expecting it one day to be said of me, as of another :

“ Perplexed in faith, but pure in deeds,
At last he beat his music out.”

I will take God, Duty, and Immortality,
and with my eyes on my risen Lord, I will
walk in newness of life.

ANONYMOUS.



To Him no high, no low, no great, no small,
He fills, He bounds, connects and equals all.

ALEXANDER POPE.

I LOVE them that love me: and those that seek me early shall find me.—PROVERBS viii. 17.



Lo! the day of God is breaking;

Light is in the sky!

See the world to life awaking:

Morning draweth nigh.

REV. CHARLES G. AMES.



THREE is always one bright thought in our minds, when all the rest are dark. There is one thought out of which a moderately cheerful man can always make some satisfactory sunshine, if not a sufficiency of it. It is the thought of a bright, populous heaven. There is joy there at least, if there is joy nowhere else.

FREDERICK W. FABER, D. D.



ENOUGH to feel

That God, indeed, is good. Enough to know,

Without the gloomy cloud He would reveal
No beauteous bow.

WILLIAM CROSWELL.

HEAR instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.—PROVERBS viii. 33.



I AM very happy, solely because I have reached that upper ether of spiritual calm which envy, jealousy, and malice cannot reach. I do common work—plenty of it—but in a spirit of consecration which ennobles it, at least to me.

MRS. MARY CLEMMER HUDSON.



PRUNE thou thy words, the thoughts control

That o'er thee swell and throng ;
They will condense within thy soul,
And change to purpose strong.

But he who lets his feelings run
In soft, luxurious flow,
Shrinks when hard service must be done,
And faints at every woe.

Faith's meanest deed more favor bears,
When hearts and wills are weighed,
Than brightest transports, choicest prayers,
Which bloom their hour and fade.

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.

FOR whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the Lord.—PROVERBS viii. 35.



BEFORE the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame.
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

ISAAC WATTS.



EVERY human being is intended to have a character of his own, to be what no other is, to do what no other can.

W. E. CHANNING.



THE very difficulties of life, of which we are so apt to complain, are converted into the means of that discipline, that self-improvement, which is the great end of life. Let a man's present desires be met and satisfied without any exertion on his part, and he would be content to remain as he is. Progress is the child of struggle, and struggle is the child of difficulty.

JAMES WALKER.

*BLESSED is the man that heareth me,
watching daily at my gates, waiting at the
posts of my doors.—PROVERBS viii. 34.*



*But he that sinneth against me wrongeth
his own soul.—PROVERBS viii. 36.*



THE world may change from old to new,
From new to old again ;
Yet hope and heaven, forever true,
Within man's heart remain.
The dreams that bless the weary soul,
The struggles of the strong,
Are steps toward some happy goal,
The story of Hope's song.

SARAH FLOWER ADAMS.



EN untiring sense of duty, an active consciousness of the perpetual presence of Him who is its author and its law, and a lofty aim beyond the grave—these are the best and most efficient parts, in every sense, of that apparatus wherewith we should be armed, when with full purpose of heart we address ourselves to the life-long work of self-improvement.

WM. EWART GLADSTONE.

NOT that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves ; but our sufficiency is of God.—2 COR. iii. 5.



THE circumstances of our daily life, the difficulties, the disappointments, the denials of our lot, our state of health or of fortune, the faults or errors of those with whom we live—these and such-like influences pressing upon us form an entire system of discipline, which continuously acts upon us.

T. T. CARTER.



ALAS ! if the principles of contentment are not within us.

STERNE.



. . . THIS outer world we tread on—as a harp—

A gracious instrument on whose fair strings We learn those airs we shall be set to play When mortal hours are ended.

JEAN INGELOW.



IT is the man who is the missionary, it is not his words. His character is his message.

HENRY DRUMMOND.

THE Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish ; but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.—PROVERBS x. 3.



ELL true science begins in the love, not the dissection of your fellow-creatures: and it ends in the love, not the analysis, of God.

JOHN RUSKIN.



THE painter or sculptor who makes nature and the human form more lovable, and the musician who carries us out of the reach of care into realms where the air we breathe is love, is a revealer to us of the nature of God.

CANON FREEMANTLE.



ALL noblest things are religious—not temples and martyrdoms only, but the best books, pictures, poetry, statues, and music.

WM. MOUNTFORD.



SET your pride in its proper place, and never be ashamed of any honest calling.

JEAN INGELOW.

HATRED stirreth up strifes; but love covereth all sins.—PROVERBS X. 12.



If we've got something to remember which turned out well, it heartens us up against disappointment afterward. And the more we've seen and known, the less we decide what is a disappointment. If a bird of the air carries away the seed we've sown, it will may be drop it somewhere else. I'm beginning to see these things now, when it's nearly too late.

EDMUND GARRETT.



HOPE leads the child to plant the flower,
The man to sow the seed;
Nor leaves fulfillment to her hour,
But prompts again to deed.

.
Nor loss nor shame, nor grief nor sin,
Her promise may gainsay;
The voice Divine hath spoke within,
And God did ne'er betray.

SARAH FLOWER ADAMS.

*WISE men lay up knowledge : but the mouth
of the foolish is near destruction.—*

PROVERBS X. 14.



WHEN in His steps we tread
Who trod the way of woe;
Where He is in the heart,
City of God ! thou art.

FRANCIS T. PALGRAVE.



THE great comprehensive truths written on every page of our history are these: Human happiness has no perfect security but freedom; freedom none but virtue; virtue none but knowledge; and neither freedom nor virtue has any vigor or immortal hope except in the principles of the Christian faith, and in the sanction of the Christian religion. JOSIAH QUINCY.



EVERYWHERE there is something to learn and to do, something to be delighted with.

GOETHE.



BE one of the very few who, a thing to be done, will not trust it to the uncertain to-morrow.

MRS. MULOCK.

*THE tongue of the just is as choice silver :
the heart of the wicked is little worth.—
PROVERBS X. 20.*



DOETH not song
To the whole world belong ?
Is it not given wherever tears can fall,
Wherever hearts can melt, or blushes glow,
Or mirth and sadness mingle as they flow,
A heritage to all ?

MRS. CRAIG-KNOX.



IT was so then; it is so now. I have seen hard fighters among poor men and rich men: some on sick beds and some in the world, in whom I am sure the love of God was perfecting itself. One longed to sit at their feet and learn wisdom. But it was the wisdom of life, not the wisdom of letters; and in life it must be learned. They were striving, according to St. John's precept, to walk even as Christ walked; to live, by daily trust and daily self-renunciation, as He lived.

F. D. MAURICE.

*THE blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich,
and he addeth no sorrow with it.—*

PROVERBS X. 22.



LIFE is a search after power, says Emerson. But it is a search after that most potent power, spiritual energy.

LILIAN WHITING.



No benefactor is equal to him who peoples life with new and lofty ideals.

GOETHE.



A SENSE of an earnest will
To help the lowly living,
And a terrible heart-thrill,
If you have no power of giving:
An arm to aid the weak,
A friendly hand to the friendless;
Kind words, so short to speak,
But whose echo is endless :
The world is wide, these things are small,
They may be nothing, but they are all.

LORD HOUGHTON.

THE hope of the righteous shall be gladness:

The way of the Lord is strength to the upright.—PROVERBS X. 28-29.



EVERYTHING you need to make you good, wise, humble, lovely, useful, and happy is comprehended in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. PULSFORD.



ONLY the strong can be truly gentle, either physically, mentally, or morally. Nor is gentleness inconsistent with boldness and courage; rather do we expect to find these qualities at their best and highest when together. ALEXANDER POPE.



WHY thus longing, thus forever sighing
For the far-off, unattained, and dim;
While the beautiful, all round thee lying,
Offers up its low, perpetual hymn?
Wouldst thou listen to its gentle teaching,
All thy restless yearning it would still.
Leaf and flower and laden bee are preaching
Thine own sphere, though humble, first to
fill. MRS. LISZT.

THE mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom : but the froward tongue shall be cut out.—PROVERBS x. 31.



THERE is no place where earthly sorrows
Are so felt as up in heaven;
There is no place where earthly failings
Have such kindly judgment given.
For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

F. W. FABER, D. D.



VIRTUE is bold, and goodness never
fearful.

SHAKSPEARE.



IT is only when we suffer ourselves, that
we feel truly the real nature of all the high
qualities which are required to bear suffer-
ing.

GOETHE.



IT is astonishing what a lot of odd
minutes one can catch during the day, if
one really sets about it.

MRS. MULOCK.

A FALSE balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight.—
PROVERBS xi. 1.



THE thought that leads to no action is not thought; it is dreaming.

But all that is beautiful, all that is bright,
Shining, and glorious in Truth's chrismal light,

The helpful, the hopeful, the true, and the wise,

The unselfish action that meets glad surprise,

All grand inspiration to nobler deeds,

All effort and thought for humanity's needs,

All that makes life worth the living will stay,

These are the deathless, these live on for aye. ELIZA LAMB MARTYN.



WHAT thy soul teaches learn to know,

And play out thine appointed part.

And thou shalt reap as thou shalt sow,

Nor helped nor hindered in thy growth,

To thy full stature thou shalt grow.

PAKENHAM BEATTY.

*FIRST the blade, then the ear, after that
the full corn in the ear.—MARK iv. 28.*



TEN thousand thousand precious gifts
My daily thanks employ;
Nor is the least a cheerful heart
That tastes those gifts with joy.
Through every period of my life
Thy goodness I'll pursue;
And after death, in distant worlds,
The glorious theme renew.

JOSEPH ADDISON.



ERCHIBALD was not the only person who sighed for a standpoint, that he might move the world. Patience and perseverance find the standpoint.

EDITH ROBINSON.



RECOMPENSE injury with justice, and recompense kindness with kindness.

CONFUCIUS.



WHEN we know how to appreciate merit we have the germ of it within ourselves.

GOETHE.

*WHEN pride cometh, then cometh shame:
but with the lowly is wisdom.—PROVERBS
xi. 2.*



HE sendeth sun, he sendeth shower,
Alike they're needful to the flower;
And joys and tears alike are sent
To give the soul fit nourishment.
As comes to me, or cloud or sun,
Father! Thy will, not mine, be done.

SARAH FLOWER ADAMS.



TIT is sometimes said that this world is a world only of shadows and phantoms. We may safely reply that, whatever it is, a world of shadows and phantoms it can never truly be; for by shadows and phantoms, we mean vague existences, which neither endure nor act; . . . With such a description as this, I say, our human life, in whatever state or station, can never correspond. It may be something better than this; it may be something worse, but this it can never be.

WM. EWART GLADSTONE.



To all the living there is hope.—ECCLESIASTES ix. 4.

*H*E that diligently seeketh good procureth favor: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.—PROVERBS xi. 27.



SORROWS humanize the race;
Tears are the showers that fertilize the world;
And memory of things precious keepeth warm
The heart that once did hold them.

. . . They are poor
That have lost nothing; they are poorer far
Who, losing, have forgotten; the most poor
Of all, who lose and wish they might forget.

JEAN INGELOW.



GOD reads the soul, and not the face;
He hears the thoughts, and not the tongue.
In Heaven the features wear no grace
Save that which round the spirit hung;
And only they are lovely seen
Whose lives on earth have noble been.

ERNEST SHURTELLFF.

THERE is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.—PROVERBS xi. 24.



ELL the events of life are the materials out of which we may make what we will.

NOVALIS.



BELIEF and trust in all things good and noble, and with no hatred save for what was false, and base, and mean.

“ Make Thou my spirit pure and clear.”

MRS. EWING.



THE true measure of time is that which makes each man's life a day, his day. The real night is that in which no man can work.

MRS. EWING.



UPRAISE thy heart and seek the highest thought

Which can reflect itself in human soul.

J. L. SPALDING.



To love God is to love goodness: that is, to love our highest and grandest thought of goodness.

ALEXANDER POPE.

*WHERE no counsel is, the people fall : but
in the multitude of counselors there is
safety.—PROVERBS xi. 14.*



O BROODING spirit of Wisdom and of Love,
Whose mighty wings even now o'er-
shadow me,
Absorb me in Thine own immensity,
And raise me far my finite self above !
Purge vanity away, and the weak care
That name or fame of me may widely
spread ;
And the deep wish keep burning in their
stead,
Thy blissful influence afar to bear,
Or see it borne ! Let no desire of ease,
No lack of courage, faith, or love, delay
Mine own steps on that high thought-
paven way
In which my soul her clear commission sees:
Yet with an equal joy let me behold
Thy chariot o'er that way by others rolled.

WM. ROWAN HAMILTON.



LIFE is a journey, and death a return home. It is better to suffer an injury than to commit one.—*Chinese Maxims.*

*A GRACIOUS woman retaineth honour ;
and strong men retain riches.—PROVERBS
xi. 16.*



TIME, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away ;
They fly, forgotten as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

ISAAC WATTS.



PATIENCE, humility, and utter forgetfulness of self are the true royal qualities.

THOS. HUGHES.



DOING nothing for others is the undoing of ourself. We must be purposely kind and generous, or we miss the best part of existence. The heart that goes out of itself gets large and full. This is the great secret of the inner life. We do ourselves the most good doing something for others.

HORACE MANN.

HE that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbor; but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.—PROVERBS xi. 12.



EACH of us can take one hour from the twenty-four to promote our fondest wish or ambition. To what shall the hour be given? The answer which each reader wishes involuntarily to make to this question, will afford him a key to his own character and the present condition of his mind and soul.

REV. T. MORRIS.



GATHER up and preserve the time,

SENECA.



LIFE hath its Tabor heights,
Its lofty mounts of heavenly recognition,
Whose unveiled glories flash to earth
munition
Of love and truth and clear intuition.

SARAH DOUDNEY.

*THE fruit of the righteous is a tree of life ;
and he that winneth souls is wise.—PROVERBS xi. 30.*



JUDGE not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace ;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

WM. COWPER.



ENERGY of character has always a power to evoke energy in others. It acts through sympathy, one of the most influential of human agencies. The zealous, energetic man unconsciously carries others along with him. He exercises a sort of electric power, which sends a thrill through every fiber, flows into the nature of those about him, and makes them give out sparks of fire.

SAML. SMILES.



WHEN we think most for others, God thinks most for us. M. HENRY.



JESUS, as the name of the Incarnate God, calls for our *love*. FR. HALL.

*In whom also ye also are builded together for
an habitation of God through the Spirit.—
EPHESIANS ii. 22.*



THE human soul is like a bird born in a cage. Nothing can deprive it of its natural longings, or obliterate the mysterious remembrance of its heritage.

EPES SARGENT.



ALL one's life is a music if one touches the notes rightly and in tune.

JOHN RUSKIN.



WE are builders of our own characters. We have different positions, spheres, capacities, privileges, different work to do in the world, different temporal fabrics to raise; but we are all alike in this—all are architects of fate.

J. F. W. WARE.



THE measure of life is not length, but honesty.

LYLV.

*BE like-minded, having the same love, being
of one accord, of one mind.—PHILIPPIANS
ii. 2.*



END as to hoping, as long as we're sure
our hopes is reunion the same way as
the Lord's, I reckon we can't be too
hopeful.

EDNA LYALL.



LET me not deem that I was made in vain,
Or that my Being w^s an accident,
Which Fate, in work^{ng} its sublime intent,
Not wished to be, to hinder would not
deign.

Each drop, uncounted in a storm of rain,
Hath its own mission, and is duly sent
To its own leaf, or blade, not idly spent
'Mid myriad dimples on the shipless main.
The very shadows of an insect's wing,
For which the violet cared not while it
stayed,

Yet felt the lighter for its vanishing,
Proved that the sun was shining by its
shade:

Then can a drop of the eternal spring,
Shadow of living lights, in vain be made?

JOHN KEATS.

WITH whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.—JAMES i. 17.



“LORD ! how in darkness can I see aright ?”
Child ! all the universe I fill with light;
Be true within, and truth shall cleanse thy
sight.

More than all speech the Silent Order
saith;
All laws of life are articles of faith;
Who loves and seeks for good, behold he
prayeth. CHARLES GORDON AMES.



NON the return of benefits let us be ready
and cheerful, but not pressing. There
is as much greatness of mind in the owing
of a good turn as in the doing of it.

SENECA.



KIND listening leads to kind speaking. . . The occasions for kind actions are manifold. No one passes a day without meeting with these fortunate opportunities. They grow around us even while we lie on a bed of sickness, and the helpless are rich in a power of kindness toward the helpful.

F. W. FABER.

DECEIT is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counselors of peace is joy.—PROVERBS xii. 20.



UNLESS a variety of opinions are laid before us, we have no opportunity of selection; the purity of gold cannot be ascertained by a single specimen.

HERODOTUS.



ALL true work is sacred; in all true work, were it but true hand labor, there is something of divineness.

THOMAS CARLYLE.



IF words of thine have cheered one failing heart,

Kindled anew one fading altar fire,
Thy work is not a failure; chords are touched

That shall re-echo from the angel choir.

MRS. H. F. THOMAS.



THE vital power of good example lives on from generation to generation, keeping the world ever fresh and young.

SAMUEL SMILES.

RIGHTEOUSNESS keepeth him that is upright in the way.—PROVERBS xiii. 6.



Only by pride cometh contention : but with the well-advised is wisdom.—PROVERBS xiii. 10.



WHEN my ill-schooled spirit is aflame
Some nobler, ampler stage of life to win,
I'll stop and say, "There were no succor
here !

The aids to nobler life are all within."

MATTHEW ARNOLD.



WE reap what we sow, but Nature has
love over and above that justice, and
gives us shadow and blossom and fruit that
spring from no planting of ours.

GEORGE ELIOT.



"LET patience have her perfect work,"
and bring forth celestial fruits. Trust to
God to weave your little thread into a web,
though the pattern show not yet.

GEORGE MACDONALD.



MAN's strength is not in himself.

C. CAPEN.

BLESSED are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.—MATTHEW v. 8.



UR soul is unlovely by reason of iniquity: by loving God it becomes lovely.

ST. AUGUSTINE.



ALL the sweet sympathy, secretly shown,
All the charity, hidden, unknown,
All the compassion that lit the dark way,
All the pity for those gone astray,
All of the love, that divine password given,
Admitting the earth-weary pilgrims to heaven.

O blessed Love ! how thy bright chalice glows,
Refilled till the cup with the red wine o'erflows.

O purest Love ! the great conqueror of death,

Nothing can live without thy holy breath.

O all-potent Love ! who comprehends Thy infinite issues and thy divine ends ?

Love ! that makes deathless our grandest ideal,

All else fade and vanish, thou only art real.

ELIZA LAMB MARTYN.

A SOFT answer turneth away wrath.

The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright.—PROVERBS xv. 1-2.



How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,

Is laid for your faith in His excellent word !
What more can He say than to you He hath said,

You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled:
“ Fear not, I am with thee; Oh, be not dismayed,

For I am thy God, and will give thee aid.”

GEORGE KEITH.



WARM breezes stole in at the open windows ; the scent of wild flowers borne upon the wind from the ravines and hills mingled with the breath of evening ; Nature lay calm and sympathetic ; radiance, peace, and love pervaded the world ; the sunlight touches each object with a soft caress ; and one feels in every pore of his being the harmony that springs from the profound tenderness of inanimate things.
“ And God ruleth with love.”

VICTOR HUGO.

THE eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.—PROVERBS XV. 3.



OH, that I were the great soul of a world !
A glory in space !
By the glad hand of Omnipotence hurled
Sublime on its race !
Reflecting the marvelous beauty of heaven,
Encircled with joy ;
To endure when the orbs shall wax dim that
are given
Old Time to destroy !

Oh, that I were this magnificent spirit !
Embodyed to prove
The measureless bliss they were sure to
inherit,
Who lived in my love :
With elements infinite fitted for taking
All forms of my will—
To give me forever the rapture of making
More happiness still !

WILLIAM KENNEDY.



THE glory is not in the task, but in the
doing it for God. JEAN INGELOW.

*BLESSED are the poor in spirit: for their's
is the kingdom of heaven.—MATTHEW
v. 3.*



FIRM must be the will, patient the heart, passionate the aspiration, to secure the fulfilment of some high and lonely purpose, when reverie spreads always its bed of roses on the one side, and practical work summons to its treadmill on the other.

SAMUEL SMILES.



ACCIDENT does very little toward the production of any great result in life. Though sometimes what is called “a happy hit” may be made by a bold venture, the common highway of steady industry and application is the only safe road to travel.

SAMUEL SMILES.



THE sublimity of wisdom is to do those things living which are to be desired when dying.

BISHOP TAYLOR.



As every thread of gold is valuable, so is every moment of time.

CANON FARRAR.

WITHOUT faith it is impossible to please him.—HEBREWS xi. 6.



SCIENCE tells us there has been a survival of the fittest. Doubtless this is so. So in the future there will be a survival of the fittest. What is it? Wisdom, gentleness, meekness, brotherly kindness, charity. Over those who have these traits, death hath no permanent power.

BISHOP WARREN.



To dare is great. To bear is greater.
Bravery we share with the brutes: Fortitude with saints. C. F. DEEMS.



HIS be the praise who, looking down with scorn
On the false judgment of the partial herd,
Consults his own clear heart, and boldly dares

To be, not to be thought, an honest man.

PHILEMON.



IF we were filled with the spirit of real Christian truth, we should hesitate before giving expression to the glib judgment.

REV. E. W. DONALD.

*BLESSED are the peace-makers : for they shall be called the children of God.—
MATTHEW v. 9.*



RISE, my soul, and stretch thy wings,
Thy better portion trace;
Rise from transitory things
Toward heaven, thy native place;
Sun and moon and stars decay;
Time shall soon this earth remove:
Rise, my soul, and haste away
To seats prepared above.

ROBERT SEAGRAVE.



THE morning is the gate of the day, and should be guarded with prayer.

Fair is that lone star which smiles though the rifts of the thunder-clouds; bright is the oasis which blooms in the wilderness of sand; so fair and so bright is love in the midst of wrath.

Great hearts can only be made by great troubles. REV. C. H. SPURGEON.



THE useless men are those who never change with the years. J. M. BARRIE.

A MERRY heart maketh a cheerful countenance.—PROVERES XV. 13.



IF you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost: that is where they should be: now put foundations under them.

THOREAU.



IF we be honest with ourselves,
We shall be honest with each other.

GEO. MACDONALD.



EVERY rose is an autograph from the hand of the Almighty God. On this world about us He has inscribed His thought, in those marvelous hieroglyphs which sense and science have been these many thousand years seeking to understand. The universe itself is a great autograph of the Almighty.

THEODORE PARKER.



OH, that we could always think of God as we do of a friend, as of one who unfeignedly loves us, even more than we do ourselves!

RICHARD BAXTER.

*BETTER is little with the fear of the Lord,
than great treasure, and trouble therewith.*
—PROVERBS xv. 16.



IN having all things, and not Thee, what have I ?

Not having Thee, what have my labors got ?

Let me enjoy but Thee, what further crave I ?

And having Thee alone, what have I not ?

FRANCIS QUARLES.



¶ WILL govern my life, and my thoughts, as if the whole world were to see the one, and to read the other. SENECA.



THOSE who have the most of it [happiness] think the least about it. But in thinking about and in doing their duty happiness comes—because the heart and mind are occupied with earnest thought that touches at a thousand points the beautiful and sublime realities of the universe.

THACKERAY.

A MAN hath joy by the answer of his mouth : and a word spoken in due season, how good is it.—PROVERBS XV. 23.



OUR many deeds, the thoughts that we have thought—

They go out from us stronging every hour ;
And in them all is folded up a power
That on the earth doth move them to and fro.
And mighty are the marvels they have wrought

In hearts we know not, and may never know.

F. W. FABER.



EFATE rules the words of wise men which makes their words truer, and worth more than the men themselves know.

JOHN RUSKIN.



OUR life is always deeper than we know, it is always more divine than it seems, and hence we are able to survive degradations and despairs which otherwise must have engulfed us.

HENRY JAMES.



IT is greatness of soul alone that never grows old.

PERICLES.

*THE light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart :
The ear that heareth the reproof of life
abideth among the wise.—PROVERBS XV. 30-31.*



THERE'LL come a time near the setting sun,

When the joys of life seem few;
A rift will break in the evening dun,
And the golden light stream through.

MINOT J. SAVAGE.



FROM that Cross on Calvary has streamed a light that has illumined all the world. Not one of all the sons of all the centuries that lie between but has felt the inspiration and the influence of that wonderful death-scene. Scoffer or saint, doubter or disciple—not one but has been touched and strengthened by the real story of the Cross. Priestly inventions and infidel “realisms” have never been able to weaken its grandeur or minimize its potency. It was the simplest yet the grandest of all the world’s historic happenings—the giving that was gaining.

ELBRIDGE S. BROOKS.

COMMIT thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.—PROVERES xvi. 3.



KINDNESS has converted more sinners than either zeal, eloquence, or learning ; and these three never converted anyone unless they were kind also. The continual sense which a kind heart has of its own need of kindness keeps it humble.

J. J. MURRAY.



ALL the vexations and sorrow and strife,
All of the mystery enwreathing a life,
The duties we shrank from in terror and tears,
The shadowy phantoms, precursors of fears,
The hard obligations we fain would let go,
And all the possessions that burden us so,
The falsehoods and follies and useless regrets,—
The fragments and frailties that weakness begets
These will perish, these will decay,
These, evanescent, will vanish away.

ANONYMOUS.

LET your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.—MATTHEW V. 16.



BLEST is the tranquil hour of morn,
And blest the hour of solemn eve,
When, on the wings of prayer upborne,
The world I leave.

C. ELIOT.



*GOD is ever drawing like toward like,
and making them acquainted.*

Ibid.



CERTAIN defects are necessary for the existence of individuality. We should not be pleased if old friends were to lay aside certain peculiarities.

GOETHE.



MERE nature may deteriorate. The endowments of force must spend themselves. Wound-up watches and worlds must run down. But nature sustained by unexpended forces must abide. Nature filled with unexpended forces continues in form. Nature impelled by a magnificent push of life, must ever rise.

BISHOP WARREN.

BETTER is a little with righteousness, than great revenues without right.—PROVERBS xvi. 8.



WHEN peace has departed the care-stricken breast,
And the feet of the weary one languish for rest;
When the world is a wide-spreading ocean of grief,
How blest the return the bird and the leaf;
Reliance on God is the dove to our ark,
And peace is the olive she plucks in the dark.

CHARLES MACKAY.



OH, the depth and tenderness! Oh, the divine eternity of a mother's love! The same in the wilds of savagery as in the homes of culture; as supreme in the Palestine, the Rome, the Egypt of an ancient time as in the modern cities of these latter days . . . and the English poet has but voiced the faith of all sorts and conditions of men when he sings:

“A mother is a mother still,
The holiest thing alive”

ELBRIDGE S. BROOKS.

HOW much better is it to get wisdom than gold?—PROVERBS xvi. 16.



WHAT fairy palaces we may build of beautiful thoughts—proof against all adversity — bright fancies, satisfied memories, noble histories, faithful sayings; treasure-houses of precious and restful thoughts, which care cannot disturb, nor pain make gloomy, nor poverty take away from us—houses, built without hands, for our souls to live in.

JOHN RUSKIN.



THERE'S never an always cloudless sky,
There's never a vale so fair,
But over it sometimes shadows lie
In a chill and songless air.

But never a cloud o'erhung the day,
And flung its shadows down,
But on its heaven-side gleamed some ray,
Forming a sunshine crown.

MINOT J. SAVAGE.

He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good.—PROVERBS xvi. 20.



E COMMANDING love has made a homely face beautiful with aspiration and self-sacrifice. What may we not expect when the spirit of God, without measure, breaks through a physical nature molded to the perfection of grace and harmony?

S. S. HELKER.



WALK with the Beautiful and with the Grand,

Let nothing on the earth thy feet deter;
Sorrow may lead thee, weeping, by the hand,

But give not all thy bosom thoughts to her;

Walk with the Beautiful.

I hear thee say, “The Beautiful! what is it?”

Oh, thou art darkly ignorant! be sure
'Tis no long weary road its form to visit,
For thou canst make it smile beside thy door;

Then love the Beautiful.

E. H. BURRINGTON.

*PLEASANT words are as an honey-comb,
sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.—
PROVERBS XVI. 24.*



TIS not always the depth or the novelty of a thought which constitutes its value to ourselves, but the fitness of its application to our circumstances.

SEWELL.



THE earnestness of life is the only passport to the satisfaction of life.

THEODORE PARKER.



SINCE the “sting of death is sin,”
Make us, Lord, so pure within
That the grave may be
Only a sweet couch of rest,
Where, beneath earth’s sheltering breast,
We shall wait for Thee.

E. M. COMSTOCK.



LIFE is a quarry, out of which we are to mold and chisel and complete a character.

GOETHE.

*THE heart of the wise teacheth his mouth,
and addeth learning to his lips.—PROVERBS
xvi. 23.*



COMES a day will bring its own sufficient store,

When, forgetting how to borrow,
I, from God, shall be a giver evermore;
To-morrow, dear, to-morrow.

After one delicious trance is overslept,
I shall wake, forgetting sorrow ;
I shall smile to think how weakly once I wept;

To-morrow, yes, to-morrow.

CHARLES GORDON AMES.



THREE good works do follow them: either their own good works and words which outlive themselves, or those which they have inspired in their successors and survivors. The vision of a noble character, the glimpse of a new kind of virtue does not perish . . . this keeps alive in us the ideal of human nature and the essence of the Divine nature.

DEAN STANLEY.

BUT we all, with unveiled face, reflecting as a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit.—2 CORINTHIANS iii. 18 (Revised Version).



SWEET is the work, my God, my King,
To praise Thy name, give thanks, and sing;
To show Thy love by morning light,
And talk of all Thy truth at night.

ISAAC WATTS.



(W)UR life may be food to us, or may, if we will have it so, be poison ; but one or the other it must be. Whichever and whatever it is, beyond all doubt it is eminently real. So merely as the day and the night alternately follow one another, does every day when it yields to darkness, and every night when it passes into dawn, bear with it its own tale of the results which it has silently wrought upon each of us, for evil or for good. The day of diligence, duty, and devotion leaves it richer than it found us; richer sometimes, and even commonly, in our circumstances; richer always in ourselves. WM. EWART GLADSTONE.

BETTER is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than a house full of sacrifices with strife.—PROVERBS xvii. 1.



SOMEONE has said that ours is an age when everyone wants to reform the world, but no one thinks of reforming himself. We must begin with ourselves. . . Life for God in public is a mere sounding brass and tinkling cymbal unless it is balanced by life with God in secret.

REV. JAMES STALKER, D. D.



THE soul of man is larger than the sky;
Deeper than ocean, or the abysmal dark
Of the unfathomed center. Like that Ark,
Which in its sacred hold uplifted high,
O'er the drowned hills, the human family,
And stock reserved of every living kind,
So, in the compass of a single mind,
The seeds and pregnant forms in essence
lie,
That makes all worlds.

HARTLEY COLERIDGE.

WHOSO rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house. A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.—PROVERBS xvii. 13-17.



MO one leads so calm a life as he who thinks but little of himself.

ST. AUGUSTINE.



My bark is wafted to the strand
By breath divine;
And on the helm there rests a hand.
Other than mine.

One who has known in storms to sail
I have on board;
Above the raving of the gale
I hear my Lord.

DEAN OF CANTERBURY.



PRAYER is the peace of our spirit, the stillness of our thought, the evenness of our recollection, the seat of meditation, the rest of our cares, and the calm of our tempest; prayer is the issue of a quiet mind, of untroubled thoughts; it is the daughter of charity, and the sister of meekness.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

WISDOM is before him that hath understanding.—PROVERBS xvii. 24.



THREE things which a man ought to do with his heart: to feel it, to teach it, and to fear it. . . .

Three godlike qualities in man: patient endurance, sincere and disinterested love, and renumeration of that which is temporal.



LOVE is the happy privilege of the mind—
Love is the reason of all living things.

A Trinity there seems of principles,
Which represent and rule created life—
The love of self, our fellows, and our God.
In all throughout one common feeling reigns:
Each doth maintain, and is maintained by
the other:

All are compatible—all needful; one
To life,—to virtue one,—and one to bliss:
Which thus together make the power, the
end,

And the perfection of created Being:
From these three principles comes every
deed,
Desire, and will, and reasoning, good or bad.

PHILIP JAMES BAILEY.

A MERRY heart doeth good like a medicine.—PROVERBS xvii. 22.



ARE there not aspirations in each heart
After a better, brighter world than this ?
Longings for beings nobler in each part—
Things more exalted—steeped in deeper
bliss ?

Who gave us these ? what are they ? Soul,
in thee
The bud is budding now for immortality !

ROBERT NICOLL.



IN seeing the life of Jesus, men have felt the silent rebuke upon their own low lives. In the admiration which has deepened into love, they have recognized the presence of unsuspected ideals and become conscious of a power to realize them. Forgetful of themselves, they have followed that life along its path of beauty and power, and seen it end in a death which revealed at once not only the vanity but the horror of sin, and yet showed that neither sin nor death can separate God's child from his love and care.

REV. LEIGHTON PARKS,

(*His Star in the East.*)

THE words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the well-spring of wisdom as a flowing brook.—PROVERBS xviii. 4.



SOMETIMES I catch sweet glimpses of His face,

But that is all.

Sometimes He looks on me and seems to smile,

But that is all.

Sometimes He speaks a passing word of peace,

But that is all.

Sometimes I think I hear His loving voice
Upon me call.

Nay, do not wrong Him by thy heavy thoughts,

But love His love!

Do thou full justice to His tenderness,

His mercy prove:

Take Him for what He is; Oh, take Him all
And look above.

H. BONAR.



FRET not over your heavy troubles, for they are the heralds of weighty mercies.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

THE heart of the prudent getteth knowledge.
—PROVERBS xviii. 15.



LOVE, unselfish love, is there spoken of [New Testament] again and again as the fundamental essence of the highest life of God; and it is also evident on the face of the Gospels that it is the fundamental motive and characteristic of the life and death of Christ. It is this love stronger than death, this love willing to spend itself for others, that is the blood of the life in which God is well pleased.

DEAN STANLEY.



FOR God, being love, in love created all,
As he contains the whole and penetrates.
Seraphs love God, and angels love the good:
We love each other: and these lower lives,
Which walk the earth in thousand divers
shapes,

According to their reason, love us too:
The most intelligent affect us most.
Nay, man's chief wisdom's love—the love of
God. PHILIP JAMES BAILEY.

A MAN that hath friends must show himself friendly ; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.—PROVERBS xviii. 24.



How purely true, how deeply warm,
The inly breathed appeal may be,
Though adoration wears no form,
In upraised hand or bended knee !
One spirit fills all boundless space,
No limit to the when or where ;
And little recks the time or place
That leads the soul to praise and prayer.

ELIZA COOK.



IF for some of us action cannot mean doing, then remember bearing, too, is action—often its hardest part.

W. C. GANNETT.



THE heroic example of other days is in great part the source of the courage of each generation ; and men walk composedly to the most perilous enterprises, beckoned onward by the shades of the braves that were.

S. HELPS.

WHATSOEVER ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord.—COLOSSIANS iii. 23.



SUCH is life ! We are brought near persons we love or who do us good for a time ; and then they part from us, or we are parted from them. We gain friends, and lose them out of sight ; we have blessings and forfeit them ; all is change ; . . . and all this to teach us, amid all which changes, to trust alone in Him who changeth not ; to use faithfully all He gives us.

E. B. PUSEY.



THE things of earth
Are copies of the things in Heaven, more
close,
More clear, more near, more intricately
linked,
More subtly, than men guess.

EDWIN ARNOLD.



HOPE—MEMORY. Hope is the morning
blush of joy ; Memory is the evening radiance.

J. P. RICHTER.



PREScribe to yourself an ideal ; then live
up to it.

EPICTETUS.

HEAR counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.—
PROVERBS xix. 20.



BRING before us the truth that by law, by order, by due subordination of means to ends, as in the material, so in the moral world, the will of God is best carried out.

DEAN STANLEY.



IN the cloud of the human soul there is a fire stronger than the lightning, and a grace more precious than the rain.

JOHN RUSKIN.



Av, love it ; 'tis a sister that will bless,
And teach thee patience when the heart
is lonely.

The angels love it ; for they wear its dress,
And thou art made a little lower only ;
Then love the Beautiful.

E. H. BURRINGTON.

COUNSEL in the heart of man is like deep water ; but a man of understanding will draw it out.—PROVERBS XX. 5.



IT seems to me we can never give up longing and wishing while we are thoroughly alive. There are certain things we feel to be beautiful and good, and we must hunger after them.

GEORGE ELIOT.



SUCCESS and wealth may fill the years
With joys that far outweigh the tears ;
O dangerous quicksands 'neath our feet :—
So careless, so prone to sin !
God keeps us beautiful within !

EMMA L. SUPER.



EACH night is followed by its day.



MODERATION is the silken string running through the pearl chain of all virtues.

FR. HALL.

July 26.

*BUT let us, who are of the day, be sober,
 putting on the breastplate of faith and
love.—I THESSALONIANS v. 8.*



FINE and noble theories are a good introduction to fine and noble practice. “You have built your castle in air,” said Thoreau; “that’s all very well; now put your foundations under it.”

LILIAN WHITING.



HASTE not: let no reckless deed
Mar for aye the spirit’s speed;
Ponder well, and know the right—
Forward then with all thy might!
Haste not; years cannot atone
For one reckless action done.

Rest not; time is sweeping by—
Do and dare before thou die:
Something mighty and sublime
Leave behind to conquer time:
Glorious ’tis to live for aye,
When these forms have passed away.

CHRISTOPHER CHRISTIAN COX.

*EVEN a child is known by his doings,
whether his work be pure, and whether it
be right.—PROVERBS XX. 11.*



E PRECIOUS thing is all the more precious to us, if it has been won by work or economy. JOHN RUSKIN.



OH, leave thyself to God! and if indeed
'Tis given thee to perform so vast a task,
Think not at all; think not, but kneel and ask.

Oh, friend! by thought was never creature freed

From any sin, from any mortal need.

Be patient! not by thought canst thou devise

What course of life for thee is right and wise;

It will be written up, and thou wilt read.

Oft like a sudden pencil of rich light,
Piercing the thickest umbrage of the wood,
Will shoot, amid our troubles infinite,
The Spirit's voice; oft, like the balmy flood
Of morn, surprise the universal night
With glory, and make all things sweet and good.

THOMAS BURBRIDGE.

*H*E that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city.—PROVERBS xvi. 32.



AND this for comfort thou must know:
Times that are ill won't still be so;
Clouds will not ever pour down rain,
A sullen day will clear again.

R. HERRICK.



CONSIDER the dignity of this—to be admitted into so near converse with the highest majesty. Were there nothing to follow,—no answer at all,—no prayer pays itself in the excellency of its nature, and the sweetness that the soul finds in it.

BISHOP LEIGHTON.



THERE is no selfishness and cruelty outside of man himself; and his own active benevolence can combat and vanquish all.

G. BERNARD SHAW.



JUDGE not thy friend until thou standest in his place.

RABBI HILLEL.

EVERY way of a man is right in his own eyes ; but the Lord pondereth the hearts.—PROVERBS xxi. 2.



OH, prayer is good, when many pour
Their voices in one solemn tone;
Conning their sacred lessons o'er,
Or yielding thanks for mercies shown.
'Tis good to see the quiet train
Forget their worldly joy and care,
While loud response and choral strain
Re-echo in the house of prayer.

ELIZA COOK.



THIS faith of which the Scripture speaks is not, as it is sometimes said, the paralysis of reason. It is the very glorification of reason. It is the powerful exercise of the whole spiritual nature in response to the divine call.

REV. LEIGHTON PARKS.

(*His Star in the East.*)



ALWAYS remembering, however intoxicating the sense of mental power, that the intellectual life is too dearly bought at the cost of any womanly gentleness or sympathy.

EDITH ROBINSON.

*IT is joy to the just to do judgment.—
PROVERBS XXI. 15.*



Be thou content; be still before
 His face, at whose right hand doth reign
 Fullness of joy for evermore,
 Without whom all thy toil is vain.
 He is thy living spring, thy sun, whose rays
 Make glad with life and light thy dreary days.
 Be thou content.

Lyra Germanica.



(W)F all work that produces results nine-tenths must be drudgery. There is no work, from the highest to the lowest, which can be done well by any man who is unwilling to make that sacrifice. Part of the very nobility of the devotion of the true workman to his work consists in the fact that a man is not daunted by finding that drudgery must be done. . . And there is nothing which so truly repays itself as this very perseverance against weariness.

BISHOP OF EXETER.



GOVERN thyself, and you will be able to govern the world.—*Chinese Maxim.*

A GOOD name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.—PROVERBS xxii. 1.



BUT often have I stood to mark
The setting sun and closing flower;
When silence and the gathering dark
Shed holy calmness o'er the hour.
Lone on the hills, my soul confessed
More rapt and burning homage there,
And served the Maker it addressed
With stronger zeal and closer prayer.

ELIZA COOK.



FEW of us have been so exceptionally unfortunate as not to find, in our own age, some experienced friend who has helped us by precious counsel, never to be forgotten. We cannot render it in kind; but perhaps in the fullness of time it may become our noblest duty to aid another as we have ourselves been aided, and to transmit to him an invaluable treasure.

PHILIP GILBERT HAMERTON.

THE rich and poor meet together: the Lord is the maker of them all.—PROVERBS xxii. 2.



TIT seems to me that our thoughts are a more true measure of ourselves than our actions are. . . The contradiction which too often exists between our outward actions and our inward intentions is only to be detected in the realm of our thoughts, whither none but God can penetrate. . . In like manner an impulse will sometimes show more of our real character than what we do after deliberation.

FREDERICK W. FABER, D. D.



PRAY for *final* perseverance; prepare for it by *daily* perseverance.

CANON FARRAR.



THE truth is higher than the mind that apprehends it.

C. CAPEN.



EACH in his hidden sphere of joy or woe
Our hermit spirits dwell, and range apart;
Our eyes see all around, in gloom and glow,
Hues of their own, fresh borrowed from
the heart.

JOHN KEBLE.

*BY humility and the fear of the Lord
are riches, and honour, and life.—
PROVERBS xxii. 4.*



WHY do we heap huge mounds of years
Before us and behind,
And scorn the little days that pass
Like angels on the wind?

DINAH MULOCHE CRAIK.



SURELY we must believe in our divine origin, which places us above all worldly rank, above all riches, above all beauty. But it is not enough that we believe this; we must realize also that with life power was given us to make use of life, each one after her own manner, each one of us according to the way the gift of life has been expressed in her. This individual ability it is which every one of us must strengthen to the utmost, try to lead out to perfection, for to the utmost it will be required from us.

ANNIE H. RYDER.



HAPPY is the man that can be acquitted by himself in private, in public by others, in both by God.

TRAPP.

*HE that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed:
for he giveth of his bread to the poor.—
PROVERBS xxii. 9.*



MAN, in his weakness, needs a stronger stay
Than fellow-man, the holiest and the best.
And yet we turn to them from day to day,
As if in them our spirits could find rest.

ANONYMOUS.



IT is better to receive than to do a wrong.

CICERO.



No stream from its source
Flows seaward, how lonely soever its course,
But some land is gladdened. No star ever
rose
And set without influence somewhere. No
life
Can be pure in its purpose and strong in its
strife,
And all life not be purer and nobler thereby.

OWEN MEREDITH.



HEAVEN and earth are threads of the same
loom.

ALFRED TENNYSON.

*CAST out the scorner, and contention shall go out ; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.—
PROVERBS xxii. 10.*



THE fountain of Content must spring up in the mind ; and he who has so little knowledge of human nature as to seek happiness by changing anything but his own dispositions, will waste his life in fruitless efforts, and multiply the griefs which he purposes to remove. S. JOHNSON.



FOR who did ever yet in honor, wealth,
Or pleasures of the sense, contentment
find ?
Who ever ceased to wish, when he had
health ;
Or, having wisdom, was not vexed in mind ?

So when the soul finds here no true content,
And, like Noah's dove, can no sure foot-
ing take,
She doth return from whence she first was
sent,
And flies to Him that first her wings did
make.

SIR JOHN DAVIES.

AND this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God.—JOHN xvii. 3.



O GOD ! how beautiful the thought,
How merciful the blest decree,
That Grace can e'er be found when sought,
And naught shut out the soul from Thee.
The cell may cramp, the fetters gall,
The flames may scorch, the rack may
tear,
But torture-stake, or prison-wall,
Can be endured with Faith and Prayer.

ELIZA COOK.



THE journey of high honor lies not in smooth ways.

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.



IF any misanthrope were to put in my presence the question, “Why were we born ?” I should reply, “To make an effort.”

CHARLES DICKENS.



How can we tell what coming people are aboard the ships that may be sailing to us now from the unknown seas ?

CHARLES DICKENS.

*H*AVE I not written to thee excellent things
in counsels and knowledge?—PROVERES
xxii. 20.



WHO can weigh circumstances, pas-
sions, temptations, that go to our
good and evil account, save One, before
whose awful wisdom we kneel, and at whose
mercy we ask absolution.

CHARLES DICKENS.



IT is the bounty of Nature that we live,
but of Philosophy that we live well; which
is, in truth, a greater benefit than life it-
self.

SENECA.



THEN, God has set us worthy gifts to earn,
Besides Thy heaven and Thee! and when
I say

There's room here for the weakest man alive
To live and die;—there's room, too, I re-
peat,

For all the strongest to live well and strive,
Their own way, by their individual heat,
Like a new bee-swarm leaving the old hive,
Despite the wax which tempts so violet-
sweet.

MRS. BROWNING.

*LET not thine heart envy sinners : but be thou
in the fear of the Lord all the day long.—
PROVERBS xxiii. 17.*



I KNOW not if the dark or bright
Shall be my lot ;
If that wherein my hopes delight
Be best or not.

My bark is wafted to the strand
By breath divine,
And on the helm there rests a Hand
Other than mine.

DEAN ALVORD.



THEY who navigate little streams and shallow creeks know but little of the God of tempests . . . Among the huge Atlantic-like waves of bereavement, poverty, temptation, and reproach, we learn the power of Jehovah because we feel the littleness of man.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON.



WATCH for the kind look and for the helpful word, not for the flitting, ill-humored, selfish, sarcastic, only half-real utterance of thoughts.

ANNIE H. RYDER.

FOR surely there is an end ; and thine expectations shall not be cut off.—PROVERBS xxiii. 18.



THERE'S not a leaf that falls upon the ground
But holds some joy, of silence or of sound,
Some sprite begotten of a summer dream.
The very meanest things are made supreme
With innate ecstasy. No grain of sand
But moves a bright and million-peopled
land.

LAMAN BLANCHARD



PEACE, hope, courage, faith be with you,—not the faith that reaches, trembling, toward rest beyond the grave, but faith that reaches down deep—grasps *now* the deep laid cable that moves the car of humanity *now*.

FERDINAND BLANCHARD



HAVE we not always found in our past experience that, on the whole, our kind interpretations were truer than our harsh ones?

F. W. FABER.

SALVATION is of the Lord.—JONAH ii. 9.



HE holds me when the billows smite;
I shall not fall :
If sharp, 'tis short ; if long, 'tis light;
He tempers all.

DEAN ALVORD.



If men will have no care for the future,
they will soon have sorrow for the past.
—*Chinese Maxim.*



If we still ask, “Tell me thy name ? Give me some name by which that face, that name of Love may be made to speak, and smile, and guide us,” this last blessed name is made known to us in prayer—in the best of all prayers, in the opening of the One Prayer which has, beyond any other formulary or creed, been translated into all the languages, and adopted by all the civilized nations of the earth. . . In the natural uplifting of the spirits of all mankind to God in the Lord’s Prayer is the name given . . . “Our Father who art in Heaven”—“Our Father.”

DEAN STANLEY.

WE will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.—MICAH iv. 5.



THERE are hours, there are minutes, which memory brings,

Like blossoms of Eden, to twine 'round the heart,

And as Time rushes by on the might of his wings

They may darken awhile, but they never depart—

O those hallowed remembrances cannot decay !

But they come on the soul with a magical thrill,

And in days that are darkest, they kindly will stay,

And the heart in its last throb will beat with them still.

J. G. PERCIVAL.



MO man or woman who has fallen can be restored to the position formerly held. Such must rise to a yet higher place, whence they can behold their former standing far beneath their feet.

GEO. MACDONALD.

*AND the Lord their God shall save them in
that day as the flock of his people.—
ZECHARIAH ix. 16.*



HO great and permanent work comes out of a narrow and trivial life. . . . For it is one of the eternal laws that the real life—that which is permanent and determining—depends little on external scenery. The spirit fashions its own world, regardless of visible correspondence between its inner visions of beauty and its actual environment of limitations or even deprivations. Fortunately, poverty of purse does not necessarily produce poverty of the spirit. Life may be so hedged in by circumstances as to be narrow, but may always be deep and high. And it is height that affords an outlook.

LILIAN WHITING.



WE are watchers of a beacon
Whose light shall never die ;
We are guardians of an altar
'Mid the silence of the sky.

FELICIA HEMANS.

BEHOLD, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.—ZECHARIAH xiv. 1.



HOW many plans for God's glory have fallen to the ground, which a bright look or a kind eye would have propped up ! But either because we were busy with our own work and never looked at that of others, or because we were jealous and looked coldly and spoke critically, we have not come with this facile succor to the rescue not so much of our brother as of our dearest Lord himself.

REV. FREDERICK W. FABER, D. D.



IN hope a king doth go to war,
In hope a lover lives full long ;
In hope a merchant sails full far ;
In hope just men do suffer wrong ;
In hope the plowman sows his seed ;
Thus hope helps thousands at their need.
Then faint not, heart, among the rest ;
Whatever chance, hope thou the best.

RICHARD ALISON.

AND it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem.—ZECHARIAH xiv. 8.



THE quality of mercy is not strained ;
It droppeth, as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath : it is twice
blessed ;

It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes.

W.M. SHAKSPEARE.



OUR life is but a step in dusty way ;
Then let us hold the bliss of peaceful
mind ;

Since this we feel, great loss we cannot find.

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.



GOOD resolutions seldom fail of producing some good in the mind from which they spring.

CHARLES DICKENS.



BLESSED is he who has found his work ;
let him ask no other blessedness ; he has a
life purpose. Labor is life.

THOMAS CARLYLE.

FOR all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.—I CHRONICLES xxix. 14.



DYOU may choose to forsake your duties, and choose not to have the sorrow they bring ; but you will go forth and find, my daughter, sorrow without duty, bitter herbs, and no bread.

SAVONAROLA.



SOMETIMES (we know not how, nor why, nor whence)

The twitter of the swallows 'neath the eaves,

The shimmer of the light among the leaves,

Will strike up through the thick roof of our sense,

And show us things which seers and sages saw

In the gray earth's green dawn ; something doth stir

Like organ-hymns within us, and doth awe

Our pulses into listening, and confer
Burdens of Being on us.

RICHARD REALF.

*NOW therefore, our God, we thank thee,
and praise thy glorious name.—I
CHRONICLES xxix. 13.*



WHEN fears and perils thicken fast,
And many dangers gather round;
When human aid is vain and past,
No mortal refuge to be found;
Then can we firmly lean on Heaven,
And gather strength to meet and bear;
No matter where the storm has driven,
A saving anchor lives in prayer.

ELIZA COOK.



TO get, we must give; to accumulate, we must scatter; to make ourselves happy, we must make others happy; and in order to become spiritually vigorous, we must seek the spiritual good of others. . . . Prayer girds human weakness with divine strength, turns human folly into heavenly wisdom, and gives to troubled mortals the peace of God.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

I KNOW also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness.—I CHRONICLES xxix. 17.



Go forth, my heart, and seek delight
In all the gifts of God's great might,
These pleasant summer hours;
Look how the plains for thee and me
Have decked themselves most fair to see.

Lyra Germanica.



O PPORTUNITIES correspond with almost mathematical accuracy to the ability for using them. Fitness for any work creates its own theater of action. . . Libraries are those unfailing fountains to which one goes to be filled. Reading is indeed to the mind as is food to the body—the material of which its fibers are made. It is surprising to note the difference in the quality of mental thought which even one half-hour's good reading each day will make.

LILIAN WHITING.

BOTH riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all.—I CHRONICLES xxix. 12.



GOD is the refuge of His saints,
When storms of sharp distress invade;
Ere we can offer our complaints,
Behold Him present with His aid.

ISAAC WATTS.



I DO not wish to lay undue stress on any one of the springs of our moral strength. Like the sacred river of the Holy Land, so also the river of our spiritual life has many sources, many springs, unrecognized by man, but recognized by God.

All manner of good deeds, good examples, religious forms and institutions—all these, in their different ways, go to swell the current of our good thoughts. But still to us Christians there are two sources, two springs more especially sacred and important; and these are the fountains of morning and evening prayer.

DEAN STANLEY.

*AND David said to all the congregation,
Now bless the Lord your God.—I CHRON-
ICLES xxix. 20.*



THOU must not undervalue what thou hast,
In weighing it with that which more is
graced.

The worth that weigheth inward should not
long

For outward prices. This should make
thee strong

In thy close value; naught so good can be
As that which lasts good betwixt God and
thee.

GEORGE CHAPMAN.



LOOK for beauty in commonest things
and in commonest persons; it belongs
only to those who find it and has a value
beyond that of gold. This search will not
interfere with duty, but may soften its
asperities, for a beautiful life is the choicest
blossom of a dutiful one.

ANNIE H. RYDER.



LOVE's secret is to be always doing things
for God, and not to mind because they are
such very little ones. F. W. FABER.

SAY not, I will not do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.—PROVERBS xxiv. 29.



YET if we will one Guide obey,
The dreariest path, the darkest way,
Shall issue out in heavenly day.

And we, on divers shores now cast,
Shall meet, our perilous voyage past,
All in our Father's house, at last.

R. C. TRENCH.



WHOMO can tell . . . what invisible and forgotten accident . . . chance or mischance of fortune, may have altered the current of life? A grain of sand may alter it, as the flinging of a pebble may end it.

CHARLES DICKENS.



EVENTS otherwise provocative of uncertainty stimulate a positive spirit when recognized as factors of a divine result.

REV. W. R. NEWHALL.



AFTER all, there is nothing in this world but character.

BISHOP FOWLER.

THESE things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.—PROVERBS xxiv. 23.



ES the human countenance, with the same features in us all, is diversified without end in the race, and is never the same in any two individuals ; so the human soul, with the same grand powers and laws, expands into an infinite variety of forms, and would be woefully stinted by modes of culture requiring all men to learn the same lesson, or to bend to the same rules.

WM. ELLERY CHANNING, D. D.



LOVE, hope, fear, faith—these make humanity; these are its signs and note and character.

ROBERT BROWNING.



Sow a seed, and you will reap a habit ; sow a habit, and you will reap a character ; sow a character, and you will reap a destiny.

CHARLES R. DEEMS.

*B*E not a witness against thy neighbour without cause ; and deceive not with thy lips.—PROVERBS xxiv. 28.



For ye have need of patience, that, having done the will of God, ye may receive the promise.—(REVISED VERSION) HEBREWS x. 36.



TIS this desire of the happiness of those whom we love which gives to the emotion of love itself its principal delight, by affording to us constant means of its gratification. He who truly wishes the happiness of anyone cannot be long without discovering some mode of contributing to it. Reason itself, with all its light, is not so rapid in discoveries of this sort as simple affection, which sees means of happiness, and of important happiness, where reason scarcely could think that any happiness was to be found.

THOMAS BROWN.



SOME cold-mannered friend may strangely do us the truest service.

ALFRED TENNYSON.

*TAKE away the dross from the silver, and
there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.*

—PROVERBS XXV. 4.



EACH solitary kind action that is done, the whole world over, is working briskly in its own sphere to restore the balance between right and wrong. The more kindness there is on the earth at any given moment, the greater is the tendency of the balance between right and wrong to correct itself and remain in equilibrium. Nay, this is short of the truth. Kindness allies itself with right to invade the wrong and beat it off the earth.

FREDERICK W. FABER, D. D.



WERE there nothing else
For which to praise the heavens but love,
That only love were cause enough for
praise.

ALFRED TENNYSON.



THOSE whom the world agrees to call great, are those who have done or produced something of permanent value to humanity. JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE.

TO-DAY if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.—HEBREWS iii. 15.



Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.—ROMANS xii. 21.



THERE is a voice to mercy true;
To them who mercy's path pursue
 That voice shall bliss impart—
There is a sight from man concealed,
That sight, the face of God revealed—
 Shall bless the pure in heart.

BISHOP MANT.



SEE how, turn which way we will, kindness is entangled with the thought of God! Last of all, the secret impulse out of which kindness acts is an instinct which is the noblest part of ourselves, the most undoubted remnant of the image of God, which was given us at the first. We must therefore never think of kindness as being a common growth of our nature, common in the sense of being of little value. It is the nobility of man.

FREDERICK W. FABER.

AND because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.—GALATIANS iv. 6.



As a traveler, returning
 To his home from some far land,
 Thinks of it with bosom yearning
 Ere his foot hath touched the strand;
 So amid the noisy pleasures
 Of the world, the heart oft sighs
 For the nobler, higher treasures
 Laid up for us in the skies.

From Spitta.



HE who knows and perceives how nigh God's kingdom is, may say with Jacob : “Surely, the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not.” God is in all things and places alike, and is ever alike ready to give Himself to us, in so far as we are able to receive Him; and he knows God aright who sees Him in all things.

JOHN TAULER.

CHARITY beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
—**I CORINTHIANS** xiii. 7.



HE that would love life,
And see good days
Let him refrain his tongue from evil,
And his lips that they speak no guile:
And let him turn away from evil, and do
good;
Let him seek peace, and pursue it.
For the eyes of the Lord are upon the
righteous,
And his ears upon their supplications:
But the face of the Lord is unto them
that do evil.—(REVISED VERSION) **I PETER**
iii. 10-12.



KINDNESS adds sweetness to everything. It is kindness which makes life's capabilities blossom, and paints them with their cheering hues, and endows them with their invigorating presence.

FREDERICK W. FABER.

THOU wilt keep him in perfect peace whose
mind is stayed on thee : because he trusteth
in thee.—ISAIAH xxvi. 3.



KNOW ye the land ? Oh ! not on earth it
lies
For which the heart in hours of trouble
sighs ;
Where flows no tear, no sorrow mars the
song,
The good are happy, and the weak are strong.
Know ye the land ?

The goal, the goal,
Oh, friends, is there ! Press on with heart
and soul.

From the German.



SINCERITY is the most compendious wisdom, and an excellent instrument for the speedy dispatch of business : it creates confidence in those we have to deal with, saves the labor of many inquiries, and brings things to an issue in few words : it's like traveling in a plain beaten road, which commonly brings a man sooner to his journey's end than by-ways.

JOHN TILLOTSON.

I HAVE heard of thee by the hearing of the ear.—JOB xlvi. 5.



WE HEREFORCE when he cometh into the world, he saith:

Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not,
But a body didst thou prepare for me;
In whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hadst no pleasure:

Then said I, Lo, I am come
(In the roll of the book it is written of me)

To do thy will, O God.—(REVISED VERSION) HEBREWS x. 5-7.



GOD is ever ready, but we are very unready; God is nigh unto us, but we are far from Him; God is within, but we are without; God is at home, but we are strangers. “God leadeth the righteous by a narrow path into a broad highway, till they come unto a wide and open place;” that is, unto the true freedom of that spirit which hath become one spirit with God.

JOHN TAULER.

THEY that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.—ISAIAH xl. 31.



THERE is a name, in Heaven bestowed,
That name, which hails the “Sons of God,”
The friends of peace shall know:
There is a kingdom in the sky,
Where they shall reign with God on high,
Who serve Him best below.

BISHOP MANT.



THAT is the truest wisdom of a man which doth most conduce to the happiness of life. For wisdom, as it refers to action, lies in the proposal of a right end and the choice of the most proper means to attain it; which end doth not refer to any one part of a man’s life, but to the whole as taken together.

EDWARD STILLINGFLEET, D. D.



FOR by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us.—HEBREWS x. 14.

So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground ; and should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.—

MARK iv. 26-27.



E'ER since, by faith, I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.

WILLIAM COWPER.



THE conscience of a man's own virtue and integrity lifts up his head, and gives him confidence before others, because he is satisfied they have a good opinion of his actions. What a good face does a man naturally set upon a good deed!

JOHN TILLOTSON.



WEARING the white flower of a blameless life.

ALFRED TENNYSON.



THE whole experience of life, in small things and in great, what is it? It is an aggregate of real forces.

WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE.

*BY long forbearing is a prince persuaded,
and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.—
PROVERBS XXV. 15.*



YES; every morning, as day breaks over
Olivet,
The holy name of Allah comes from every
minaret;
At every eve the mellow call floats on the
quiet air,
“Lo, God is God! Before Him come, be-
fore Him come, for prayer!”

JOHN PIERPONT.



GREATNESS confers no exemption from the cares and sorrows of life; its share of them frequently bears a melancholy proportion to its exaltation. This the Israelitish monarch experienced. He sought in piety that peace which he could not find in empire, and alleviated the disquietude of state with the exercises of devotion. His invaluable Psalms convey their comforts to others which they afforded to himself.

REV. GEORGE HORNE, D. D.

FOLLOW after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man shall see the Lord.—(REVISED VERSION) HEBREWS xii. 14.



“YE clouds, that gorgeously repose
 Around the setting sun,
Answer—have ye a home for those
 Whose earthly race is run ?”
The bright clouds answered : “We depart,
 We vanish from the sky ;
Ask what is deathless in thy heart
 For that which cannot die.”

“Speak, then, thou voice of God within,
 Thou of the deep, low tone !
Answer me through life’s restless din—
 Where is the spirit flown ?”
And the voice answered : “Be thou still !
 Enough to know is given :
Clouds, winds, and stars *their* part fulfill :
 Thine is to trust in Heaven.”

FELICIA HEMANS.



“IT is well to think well; it is divine to act well.

HORACE MANN.

EVERY word of God is pure : he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.—PROVERBS XXX. 5.



THE immortality of the soul is a thing which so deeply concerns, so infinitely imports us, that we must have utterly lost our feeling to be altogether cold and remiss in our inquiries about it. And all our actions or designs ought to bend so very different a way, according as we are encouraged or forbidden to embrace the hope of eternal rewards, that it is impossible for us to proceed with judgment and discretion, otherwise than as we keep this point always in view, which ought to be our ruling object and final aim.

BLAISE PASCAL.



A GREAT soul will be as strong to live as to think.

R. W. EMERSON.



HUMAN life is so capable of good that the veriest criminal can hardly be without some little quality worthy of appreciation.

ANNIE H. RYDER.

*REMOVE far from me vanity and lies :
give me neither poverty nor riches ; feed
me with food convenient for me.—PROVERBS
xxx. 8.*



CHILDREN of men ! the unseen Power,
whose eye

Forever doth accompany mankind,
Hath looked on no religion scornfully
That man did ever find.

Which has not taught weak wills how much
they can,

Which has not fallen on the dry heart like
rain

Which has not cried to sunk, self-weary
man :

Thou must be born again !

MATTHEW ARNOLD.



GOD is honored by a willing and a careful practice of all piety and virtue for conscience' sake, or an avowed obedience to His holy will. This is the most natural expression of our reverence toward Him, and the most effectual way of promoting the same in others.

REV. ISAAC BARROWS.

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.—ECCLESIASTES iii. 1.



Sow ye beside all waters,
Where the dew of heaven may fall ;
Ye shall reap, if ye be not weary ;
For the spirit breathes o'er all.

ANNA SHIPTON.



SURELY without a union to God we cannot be secure or well. Can he be happy who from happiness is divided ? To be united to God we must be influenced by His goodness and strive to imitate His perfections. Diligence alone is a good patrimony ; but neglect will waste the fairest fortune. One preserves and gathers ; the other, like death, is the dissolution of all.

OWEN FELTHAM.



OUTWARD service alone is of no value.

C. GEIKIE.



It is for chastening that ye endure ; God dealeth with you as with sons ; for what son is there whom his father chasteneth not ?—(REVISED VERSION) HEBREWS xii. 7.

IN the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.—ECCLESIASTES xi. 6.



Sow, though the thorns may wound thee ;
One wore the thorns for thee ;
And, though the cold world scorn thee,
Patient and helpful be.

ANNA SHIPTON.



THE goodness to the sight, the pleasantness to the taste, which is ever perceptible in those fruits which genuine piety beareth; the beauty men see in a calm mind and a sober conversation; the sweetness they taste from works of justice and charity, will certainly produce veneration to the doctrine that teacheth such things, and to the authority which enjoins them.

REV. ISAAC BARROWS.



OUR deeds determine us as much as we determine our deeds.

GEORGE ELIOT.

I KNOW that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever, . . . nor anything taken from it.—ECCLESIASTES iii. 14.



THE aim of Christianity is to produce a sanctified and noble manhood in this world, preparatory for angelhood in the higher world. He that works well for his religion, honors it; but he that lives it well, honors it more; for such a life is, itself, the best work, and empowers all other work.

ABEL STEVENS.



THERE is no service like his that serves because he loves.

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.



WE often live under a cloud, and it is well for us that we should do so. Uninterrupted sunshine would parch our hearts: we want shade and rain to cool and refresh them.

J. F. W. WARE.



ONE moment of self-conquest, one good action really done—yes, one effort to do right, really made—has the seal of time put on it.

JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

*C*ALL unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.—JEREMIAH xxxiii. 3.



TRUTH and reality have all the advantages of appearance and many more. If the show of anything be good for anything, I am sure sincerity is better ; for why does any man dissemble, or seem to be that which he is not, but because he thinks it is good to have such a quality as he pretends to ? for to counterfeit and dissemble is to put on the appearance of some real excellency. Now, the best way in the world for a man to seem to be anything, is really to be what he would seem to be.

JOHN TILLOTSON.



My son, regard not lightly the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art reproved by him : for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth.—(REVISED VERSION) HEBREWS xii. 5-6.



No great characters are formed in this world without suffering and self-denial.

MATTHEW HENRY.

AND he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.—MATTHEW iv. 19.



WE will not deplore them, the days that are past;

The gloom of misfortune is over them cast—
They are lengthened by sorrow, and sullied
by care;

Their griefs were too many, their joys were
too rare;

Yet, now that their shadows are on us no
more,

Let us welcome the prospect that brightens
before !

EPES SARGENT.



THE thread that nature spins is seldom broken off by anything but death. I do not mean by this limit the operation of God's grace, for that may do wonders; but humanly speaking, and according to the method of the world, and the little correctives supplied by art and discipline, it seldom fails but an ill principle has its course, and nature makes good its blows.

REV. ROBERT SOUTH, D. D.

BLESSED are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—MATTHEW v. 3.



That which hath been is now, and that which is to be hath already been ; and God requireth that which is past.—ECCLESIASTES iii. 15.



EN occasional effort even of an ordinary holiness may accomplish great acts of sacrifice, or bear severe pressure of unwonted trial, especially if it be the subject of observation. But constant discipline in unnoticed ways, and the hidden spirit's silent unselfishness, becoming the hidden habit of the life, give to it its true saintly beauty, and this is the result of care and lowly love in little things. Perfection is attained most readily by this constancy of religious faithfulness in all minor details of life, in the lines of duty which fill up what remains to complete the likeness to our Lord, consecrating the daily efforts of self-forgetting love.

T. T. CARTER.



A GOOD action never perishes, neither before God nor before men.—*Asiatic Proverb.*

*H*AVE always a conscience void of offense toward God and toward men.—ACTS xxiv. 16.



SOFT slumbers now mine eyes forsake,
My powers are all renewed;
May my freed spirit, too, awake,
With heavenly strength endued.

HANNAH MORE.



SPEAK well of the absent whenever you have a suitable opportunity. Never speak ill of them, or of anybody, unless you are sure they deserve it, and unless it is necessary for their amendment, or for the safety and benefit of others.

SIR MATTHEW HALE.



NEVER speak anything evil of a man if you do not know it for a certainty: and if you know it for a certainty, then ask yourself: “Why should I tell it?”

LAVATER.



THE main token of a strong character is not to make known every change in thought and feeling, but to give the world the finished results.

AUERBACH.

*THE voice of joy and the voice of gladness,
the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of
the bride, the voice of them that shall say,
Praise the Lord of Hosts : for the Lord is
good : for his mercy endureth forever : and of
them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into
the house of the Lord.—JEREMIAH XXXIII. 11.*



HOPE, child ! to-morrow hope ! and then
again to-morrow;

And then to-morrow still ! Trust in a
future day.

Hope, and each morn the skies new light
from dawn shall borrow ;
As God is there to bless, let us be there
to pray.

VICTOR HUGO.



HE is the eloquent man who can treat
humble subjects with delicacy, lofty
things impressively, and moderate things
temperately.

CICERO.



MAN'S help comes not from the earth, nor
from daily experiences, but from sources
that are unseen and eternal.

C. CAPEN.

So by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.—ROMANS V. 19.



THREE is the same difference between diligence and neglect that there is between a garden properly cultivated and the sluggard's field which fell under Solomon's view, when overgrown with nettles and thorns. The one is clothed with beauty, the other is unpleasant and disgusting to the sight. Negligence is the rust of the soul, that corrodes through all her best resolutions.

OWEN FELTHAM.



SEARCH not the roots of the fountain,
But drink the water bright ;
Gaze far above the mountain,
The sky may speak in light.
But yet, if thou see no beauty—
If, widowed, thy heart yet cries—
With thy hands go and do thy duty,
And thy work will clear thine eyes.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

*REJOICE and be exceeding glad, for great
is your reward in heaven.—MATTHEW
V. 12.*



How far from here to heaven ?
Not very far, my friend ;
A single hearty step
Will all thy journey end.
Hold there ! where runnest thou ?
Know heaven is in thee !
Seekest thou for God elsewhere ?
His face thou 'lt never see.

ANGELUS SILESIUS.



WE are born with faculties and powers capable almost of anything, such, at least, as would carry us farther than can be easily imagined; but it is only the exercise of these powers which gives us ability and skill in anything, and leads us toward perfection.

JOHN LOCKE.



How wise and happy is the man who continually endeavors to be as holy in the day of life as he wishes to be found in the day of death !

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

YE are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?—MATTHEW v. 13.



THE most ordinary occupations can be sanctified by being pursued as in His sight. Morning prayers earnestly offered; a few hearty aspirations for help and grace darted up at intervals of a busy day; an honest review at night of thoughts, words, and deeds; a childlike confession of sin as to a Father; a thoughtful recognition of His goodness; a commendation of one's self and those whom we love to His protection—is this a great or painful thing to do?

DR. BRIGHT.



THE heart that trusts forever sings,
And feels as light as it had wings:
A well of peace within it springs;
 Come good or ill,
Whate'er to-day—to-morrow—brings,
 It is His will !

ISAAC WILLIAMS.

BUT love ye your enemies and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again ; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest.—LUKE vi. 35.



WATCH not the clouds above thee:

Let the whirlwind round thee sweep;
God may the seed-time give thee,
But another's hand may reap.

ANNA SHIPTON.



TRUE greatness is in the character, never in the circumstances. No matter about wearing a crown; make sure that you have a head worthy of wearing a crown. No matter about the purple; make sure that you have a heart worthy of the purple. No matter about a throne to sit on; make sure that your life is regal in its own intrinsic character—that men will recognize the king in you, though you toil in the field or mine or serve in the lowliest place.

REV. J. R. MILLER, D. D.



LIVE to explain thy doctrine by thy life.

M. PRIOR.

*L*AY not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal : but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.—MATTHEW vi. 19, 20, 21.



IN vain men tell us time can alter
Old loves or make old memories falter.

Old thanks, old thoughts, old aspirations
Outlive men's lives and lives of nations.

SWINBURNE.



TIT is a vain thought to flee from the work that God appoints for us, for the sake of finding a greater blessing to our own souls, as if we could choose for ourselves where we shall find the fullness of the Divine Presence, instead of seeking it where it alone is to be found—in loving obedience.

GEORGE ELIOT.

LET us therefore fear, lest haply, a promise being left of entering into his rest, any one of you should seem to have come short.—(REVISED VERSION) HEBREWS iv. 1.



THOU wilt find, if thou art Christ's, that after all, even at this day, endurance, in a special sense, is the lot of those who offer themselves to be servants of the King of sorrows. If they have drunk of Christ's Cup and tasted His Bread in sincerity, it is not with them as in time past. They came as for a blessing, and they have found work. They are soldiers in Christ's army, they fight against "things that are seen," and they have all these things against them. O simple soul, is it not the law of thy being to endure? Why camest thou but to endure?

J. H. NEWMAN.



Is thy cruse of comfort wasting?
Rise and share it with another,
And through all the years of famine
It shall serve thee and thy brother.

MRS. CHARLES.



THERE is that scattereth, and yet increaseth.—PROVERBS xi. 24.

LET us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.—ECCLESIASTES xii. 13.



IN ceaseless toil from year to year,
Working with loath or willing hands,
Stone upon stone we shape and rear,
Till the completed fabric stands:
And when the last hush hath all labor
stilled,
The searching fire will try what we have
striven to build.

WM. MORLEY PUNSHON.



IT is not wealth that gives the true zest to life, but reflection, appreciation, taste, culture. Above all, the seeing eye and the feeling heart are indispensable; with these, the humblest lot may be made blessed. Labor and toil may be associated with the highest thoughts and the purest tastes.

SAMUEL SMILES.



RECOLLECTION is the only Paradise from which we cannot be turned out.

J. P. RICHTER.

ASK, and it shall be given you ; seek, and ye shall find ; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.—MATTHEW vii. 7.



CHARACTER . . . is the core on which the world turns. It is the pivot of destiny. Let us not worry about reputation, but let us see to it that our characters are right. Reputation is the dust at which swine become frightened in the street. Character is the jewel that blazes on the brow of royalty. . . Character is the verdict of the eternal Judge.

BISHOP FOWLER.



Not by deeds that win the crowd's applause ;
Not by works that give thee world-renown ;
Not by martyrdom or vaunted crosses,
Canst thou win and wear the immortal crown.

Daily struggling, though unloved and lonely,
Every day a rich reward will give ;
Thou wilt find by hearty striving only,
Truly loving thou canst truly live.

MRS. LISZT.

*In your patience possess ye your souls.—LUKE
xxi. 19.*



IN One who walked on earth a man of woe,
Was holier peace than e'en this hour in-
spires.

From Him to me let inward quiet flow,
And give the might my failing will re-
quires.

JOHN STERLING.



ES it is given us in the night of this world to behold the heavens studded with stars, great, glorious, and beautiful, in like manner has Scripture opened to our view a sight of the blessed angels. They appear as stars around us; but no unconcerned spectators in their silent watches. Michael, "who is as God"; Gabriel, "the strength of God"; Raphael, "the healing of God" (so their names signify). They are ministering spirits sent by Him, shadows of His presence. He has revealed to us their deep concern for our welfare, their active ministrations about us day and night. What a dignity does this shed upon our daily life!

ISAAC WILLIAMS.

BUT I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.—LUKE xxii. 32.



WITHOUT an end or bound
 Thy life lies outspread in light;
 Our lives feel Thy life all around,
 Making our weakness strong, our darkness bright;
 Yet is it neither wilderness nor sea,
 But the calm gladness of a full eternity.

FREDERICK W. FABER.



KIND words are the music of the world. They have a power which seems to be beyond natural causes, as if they were some angel's song, which had lost its way and come on earth. It seems as if they could almost do what in reality God alone can do—soften the hard and angry thoughts of men. No one was ever corrected by a sarcasm; crushed, perhaps, if the sarcasm was clever enough, but drawn nearer to God—never.

FREDERICK W. FABER.

BUT as many as received him, to them gave
he power to become the sons of God, even to
them that believe on his name.—JOHN i. 12.



GOD's in His heaven—
All's right with the world!

ROBERT BROWNING.



AS the feet, in the journey of life, plod along places smooth and others rough and stony, where the thorny hedge hedges out or hedges in, by the still waters and waters raging, in meadows green and meadows parched, through valleys and over hills toward the great city, what is more delightful than to fall in with a bright, lovely particular spirit traveling the same way?

W. M. BICKNELL.



A HAPPY man or woman is a better thing to find than aught else. He or she is a radiating focus of good will, and their entrance into a room is as though another candle had been lighted. . . They practically demonstrate the great theorem of the livableness of life.

ANONYMOUS.

*I AM the good shepherd, and know my sheep,
and am known of mine.—JOHN X. 14.*



Down in the pleasant pastures,
Beside the waters still,
Behold the Shepherd leadeth
His little flock at will;
Gently, oh, gently guiding
The way His sheep must go,
Still onward to the fountain
Where the living waters flow.

ANNA SHIPTON.



LOVE and commend a true good fame,
because it is the shadow of virtue; not
that it doth any good to the body which it
accompanies, but it is an efficacious shadow,
and like that of St. Peter, cures the diseases
of others.

ABRAHAM COWLEY



Too much love there can never be.

ROBERT BROWNING.



NEXT to faith in God is faith in labor.

BOVEL.

*FOR everyone that asketh receiveth ; and he
that seeketh findeth ; and to him that knock-
eth it shall be opened.—MATTHEW vii. 8.*



THERE are great truths that pitch their
shining tents
Outside our walls, and though but dimly
seen
In the gray dawn, they will be manifest
When the light widens into perfect day.

MICHAEL ANGELO.



LIFE and the world, their interests,
their careers, the varied gifts of our
nature, the traditions of our forefathers, the
treasures of laws, institutions, usages, of
languages, of literature, and of art; all the
beauty, glory, and delight with which the
Almighty Father has clothed this earth for
the use and profit of his children, and which
evil, though it has defaced, has not been
able utterly to destroy; all these are not
merely allowable, but ordained and ap-
pointed instruments for the training of
mankind.

WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE.

WITH what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.—MATTHEW vii. 2.



BE what thou seemest; live thy creed;
Hold up to earth the torch divine;
Be what thou prayest to be made;
Let the great Master's steps be thine.

HORATIUS BONAR.



UR own comfort is increased by our working for others. We endeavor to cheer them, and the consolation gladdens our own heart—like the two men in the snow: one chafed the other's limbs to keep him from dying, and in so doing kept his own blood in circulation, and saved his own life.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON.



THE spirit of God lies touching, as it were, the soul of man—ever around and near. . . All men are not spiritual men, but all have spiritual sensibilities which might awaken. All that is wanted is to become conscious of the nearness of God. . . God lies around us; at any moment we might be conscious of the contact.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

*YE shall know them by their fruits. Do men
gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?
Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit.*
—MATTHEW vii. 16, 17.



LET this and every dawn of morning be
to you as the beginning of life, and
let every setting sun be to you as its close.
Let every one of these short lives leave its
sure record of some kindly thing done for
others—some goodly strength or knowledge
gained for yourselves.

JOHN RUSKIN.



FROM endeavor to endeavor,
Journeying with the hours forever,
Or aspiring, or acquiring,
This, O man ! is life in time
Urged by that primal word sublime—
God's great one word,
Silent never, pealing ever—
Onward !

CHARLES HARPUR.



How can it be known you are in earnest,
if the act follows not upon the word ?

H. COLERIDGE.

JESUS answered, My kingdom is not of this world.—JOHN xviii. 36.



O HUMAN heart ! thou hast a song
For all that to the earth belong,
Whene'er the golden chain of love
Hath linked thee to the heaven above.

SARAH FLOWER ADAMS.



WE are learning to think of all truth,
whatever its source or however it
comes to us, as so many sentences in the
ever growing book of God.

MINOT J. SAVAGE.



TAKE Joy home,
And make a place in thy great heart for her,
And give her time to grow, and cherish her.
Then will she come, and oft will sing to
thee
When thou art working in the furrows—ay,
Or weeding in the sacred hour of dawn.
It is a comely fashion to be glad ;
Joy is in the grace we say to God.

JEAN INGELOW.

NOW we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.—I CORINTHIANS ii. 12.



I'M apt to think, the man
That could surround the sum of things, and
spy
The heart of God and secrets of His em-
pire,
Would speak but love. With him the bright
results
Would change the hue of intermediate
scenes,
And make one thing of all theology.

GAMBOLD (*Moravian poet*).



TIT is of no use to hope that we shall be well rooted if no rough winds pass over us. Those old gnarlings on the root of the oak tree, and those strange twistings of the branches, all tell of the many storms that have swept over it, and they are also indications of the depth into which the roots have forced their way.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

FOR the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: Again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.—JOHN xvi. 27, 28.



ONLY stay by His side
Till the page is really known;
It may be we failed because we tried
To learn it alone;
And now that He would not let us lose
Our lesson of love
(For He knows the loss), can we refuse?

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.



AO cloud can overshadow a true Christian, but his faith will discern a rainbow in it.

BISHOP HORNE.



OH, do not let us wait to be just or pitiful or demonstrative toward those we love until they, or we, are struck down by illness or threatened with death! Life is short, and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the dark journey with us.—*Amiel's Journal.*

*THESE things I have spoken unto you, that
in me ye might have peace. In the world
ye shall have tribulation : but be of good cheer ;
I have overcome the world.—JOHN xvi. 33.*



THY triumphs, Faith, we need not take
Alone from the blest martyr's stake;
In scenes no less we see
That Faith is a reality ;
An evidence of things not seen,
A substance firm whereon to lean.

HANNAH MORE.



ON a day of gloom and depression, when sky and mind were alike overcast and the nervous tides were at ebb, I mournfully asked, “Shall I ever again be young and well?” The answer came like a soft, cheery, inward voice, “I shall never be otherwise than young and well.” What has a passing cloud to do with the eternal prospects of a son and heir of God?

REV. CHARLES GORDON AMES.



OH, be swift to love, make haste to be kind.—*Amid's Journal.*

NO man cometh unto the Father but by me.—JOHN xiv. 6.



CREATOR, yes! Thy wisdom and Thy word
Created me. Thou source of life and
good!

Thou spirit of my spirit, and my Lord!
Thy light, Thy love, in their bright pleni-
tude,

Filled me with an immortal soul, to spring
O'er the abyss of death, and bade it wear
The garments of eternal day, and wing
Its heavenly flight, beyond this little
sphere,
E'en to its source—to Thee—its Author
there!

O thought ineffable! O vision blessed!
Though worthless our conceptions all of
Thee,
Yet shall Thy shadowed image fill our breast,
And waft its homage to Thy deity.
God, thus alone my lowly thoughts can
soar;
Thus seek Thy presence, Being wise and
good!

JOHN BOWRING.

AND he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?—MATTHEW viii. 26.



HAVE faith, though ne'er beholding
The seed burst from its tomb,
Thou know'st not which may prosper,
Or whether all shall bloom.
Room on the narrowest ridges
The ripening grain shall find,
That the Lord of the harvest, coming,
In the harvest sheaves may bind.

ANNA SHIPTON.



AN earnest purpose conquers all obstacles. A strong purpose clothes itself in power. . . That soul of things which is found in every combination of human affairs. . . Ah! is not the work which stimulates every power of mind and heart the best, rather than the life whose privileges require no answering duties?

LILIAN WHITING.



MAY we be satisfied with nothing which shall not have in it something of immortality!

H. W. BEECHER.

THEY that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice : for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.—MATTHEW ix. 12, 13.



BE strong and wait ! nor let the strife,
With which the winds and waves are rife,
Disturb that sacred inner life.

ANONYMOUS.



MO more in the inner than in the outer sphere did Christ come among us as a conqueror, making His appeal to force. We were neither to be consumed by the heat of the divine presence, nor were we to be dazzled by its brightness. God was not in the storm, nor in the fire, nor in the flood, but He was in the still, small voice.

WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE.



BEAUTY, truth, love, are the realities which abide. Goodness has slowly proved itself in the world—is every day proving itself to be that to which reason tends, in which it realizes itself.

MRS. HUMPHRY WARD.

DAUGHTER, be of good comfort : thy faith hath made thee whole.—MATTHEW ix. 22.



DELICACY and self-respect are the fruits not so much of intellect as of sensibility. We are considerate toward others in proportion as our own consciousness gives us insight. H. T. TUCKERMAN.



IF the Lord Jesus were here on earth today, He would say that intellectual indolence and moral carelessness were its chief faults. The consideration of evil consequences is not sure to make us reform, but we need to so fill ourselves with the love of truth as to hesitate in forming hasty judgments of our fellow-men. Men will always be made better by becoming filled with devotion to divine truth, the most solemn thing we know anything about in this world.

REV. E. W. DONALD, D. D.



THE love of God and man is the soul of every outward duty.

RICHARD BAXTER.

THE harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few: Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.—MATTHEW ix. 37, 38.



LIFE is a well-strung lyre,
And I a wandering note,
Struck from its cunning chords, and left
alone

A moment in the quivering air to float:
Then, without echo, die,
And upward from this earthly jarring fly,
To form a truer note above,
In the great song of joy and love,
The never ending, never jarring song
Of the immortal throng,
Sung to the praise of Him
Who is at once its leader and its theme,
My Christ, my King, my God !

BONAR.



IN all matters of eternal truth, the soul is before the intellect ; the things of God are spiritually discerned. You know truth by being true ; you recognize God by being like Him.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

*FOR it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit
of your Father which speaketh in you.—
MATTHEW x. 20.*



DO not let us waste our time in wishing that we were like others—that we had the things God has given them : we cannot have these. Each must use what God has given to himself.

Let us be content to live day by day as God leads us, making good use of every moment, without looking beyond it.

FÉNELON.



LIFE is the tossing ark,
And I the wandering dove,
Resting to-day 'mid clouds and waters dark,
To-morrow in my peaceful olive grove
Returning in glad haste
Across time's billowy waste,
For evermore to rest
Upon the faithful breast
Of Him who is my King,
My Christ, my God.

BONAR.

WHAT I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light ; and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.—MATTHEW X. 27.



My heart is resting, O my God !
I will give thanks and sing;
My heart is at the secret source
Of every precious thing;
And a new song is in my mouth
To long loved music set ;
Glory to Thee for all the grace
I have not tasted yet.

ANNA L. WARING.



LIFE passes, riches fly away, popularity is fickle, the senses decay, the world changes, friends die. One alone is true to us; One alone can be true; One alone can be all things to us; One alone can supply our need.

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.



HOLINESS is an unselfing of ourselves.

FREDERICK W. FABER.

HE that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.—MATTHEW x. 38.



LEAVE all around thee where God is not, and where thou wilt find no help from Him.

SAINT ANSELM.



PERFECTION consists not in doing extraordinary things, but in doing ordinary things extraordinarily well. Neglect nothing: the most trivial action may be performed to God. If Christian charity be in your heart, your whole life may be a continual exercise of it.

LA MÈRE ANGÉLIQUE.



THE real way of profiting by the humiliation of one's own faults is to face them in their true hideousness, without ceasing to hope in God, while hoping nothing from self.

FÉNELON.



THE measure of our success is in proportion as we satisfy our God.

KRUMMACHER.

*WHOSOEVER he be of you that forsaketh
not all that he hath, he cannot be my dis-
ciple.—LUKE xiv. 33.*



His trade He plied, a Carpenter, and built
Doors, where folks come and go, unto this
hour,
Not wotting how the hands which wrought
their doors
Unbarred Death's gate by Love's high sac-
rifice.

EDWIN ARNOLD.



“**T**O thine own self be true.” Now, to be true to yourself is to know that you were made for virtue, made for integrity, made to keep your body in sanctification and honor, made a child of God and an heir to heaven; and that to be either indolent or wicked, to either waste your own blessings, like the beasts which perish, or to add to the sin and sorrow of others, like the evil spirits of the pit, is to personate another, not yourself, and to give the lie to your nature and to your God.

CANON FARRAR.

PRAISING God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.—ACTS ii. 47.



EVERYTHING has two handles: the one by which it may be borne, the other by which it may not. If your brother acts unjustly, do not lay hold of the act by that handle wherein he acts unjustly, for this is the handle which cannot be borne; but lay hold of the other, that he is your brother, . . . and you will lay hold of the thing by that handle by which it can be borne.

EPICTETUS.



We do pray for mercy:
And that same prayer doth teach us all to
render
The deeds of mercy.

WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE.



AND all is well, tho' faith and form
Be sunder'd in the night of fear:
Well roars the storm to those that hear
A deeper voice across the storm.

ALFRED TENNYSON.

JUDGE not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.—JOHN vii. 24.



THERE were a thing worth looking into to know the reason why men are so generally willing, in point of religion, to cast themselves into other men's arms, and leaving their own reason, rely so much upon another man's. . . Thankfully to entertain the advice of others, to give it its due, and ingenuously to prefer it before our own if it deserve it: this is that gracious virtue of modesty ; but altogether to mistrust and relinquish our own faculties, and commend ourselves to others : this is nothing but poverty of spirit and indiscretion.

JOHN HALES.



WEAKNESS never needs be falseness:
Truth is truth in each degree,
Thunderpealed by God to nature,
Whispered by my soul to me.

ROBERT BROWNING.



TRUTH is eclipsed often, and it sets for a night: but is it turned aside from its eternal path ?

J. F. W. WARE.

*TAKE my yoke upon you, and learn of me ;
for I am meek and lowly in heart : and ye
shall find rest unto your souls.—MATTHEW
xi. 29.*



THE law that keeps
This planet in her path around the sun
Keeps all her sister planets, too, in theirs,
And all other shining hosts of heaven.
All worlds, all times, are under that one
 law ;
For what binds one, binds all. So all thy
 sons
And daughters, clothed in light—hosts
 brighter far
Than suns and planets—spiritual hosts,
Whose glory is their goodness—have one
 law,
The perfect law of love, to guide them
 through
All worlds, all time. Thy kingdom, Lord,
 is one.
Life, death, earth, heaven, eternity, and
 time
Lie all within it; and what blesses now
Must ever bless,—*Love of things true and
right.*

JOHN PIERPONT.

HE that is not with me is against me ; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.—MATTHEW xii. 30.



LET us examine this matter with sincerity, and we shall agree that our distresses chiefly arise from ourselves. It is virtue alone which can render us superior to Fortune; we quit her standard, and the combat is no longer equal. Fortune mocks us; she turns us on her wheel: she raises and abases us at her pleasure, but her power is founded on our weakness. This is an old-rooted evil, but it is not incurable: there is nothing a firm and elevated mind cannot accomplish. The discourse of the wise and the study of good books are the best remedies I know of: but to these we must join the consent of the soul, without which the best advice will be useless.

FRANCESCO PETRARCH.



I FEEL within me
A peace above all earthly dignities,
A still and quiet conscience.

SHAKSPEARE.

A GOOD man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things.—MATTHEW xii. 35.



ES it is in the body, so it is in the mind: practice makes it what it is, and most even of those excellences which are looked on as natural endowments will be found, when examined into more narrowly, to be the product of exercise, and to be raised to that pitch only by repeated actions.

JOHN LOCKE.



THERE is a saying of the ancient sages:
No noble human thought is lost,
However buried in the dust of ages,
Can ever come to naught.
With kindred faith, that knows no base
dejection,
Beyond the sage's scope
I see, afar, the final resurrection
Of every glorious hope.

J. G. SAXE.



HUMAN strength in itself is inadequate for life's sore needs.

JOHN LOCKE.

*JESUS answered him, saying, It is written,
That man shall not live by bread alone, but
by every word of God.—LUKE iv. 4.*



PRAISED be thine active days,
And thy night-time's solemn need,
When in God's dear book we read,
“No night shall be therein.”

MRS. BROWNING.



JUST as you now play a piece without the music and do not think what notes you strike, though once you picked them out by slow and patient toil; so, if you begin of set purpose, you will learn the law of kindness in utterance so perfectly that it will be second nature to you, and make more music in your life than all the songs the sweetest voice has ever sung.

FRANCES E. WILLARD.



THE true disciple of Jesus needs not to forget himself in order to be cheerful in his very innermost soul. On the contrary, it is when he examines his inward being, and his relations to the Father of all life, that he feels most happy.

ZSCHOKKE.

FOR it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee.—LUKE iv. 10.



Not as I will, but as thou wilt.—MATTHEW xxvi. 39.



For Life is one, and in its warp and woof
There runs a thread of gold that glitters
fair,

And sometimes in the pattern shows most
sweet

When there are somber colors. It is true
That we have wept. But oh! this thread
of gold,

We would not have it tarnish; let us turn
Oft and look back upon the wondrous web,
And when it shineth sometime we shall know
That memory is possession.

JEAN INGELOW.



IT is by the passion of sympathy that we enter into the concerns of others. . . . For sympathy must be considered as a sort of substitution by which we are put into the place of another man, and affected in a good measure as he is affected.

EDMUND BURKE.

AND when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.—LUKE v. 20.



And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.—PHILIPPIANS iv. 7.



SHAKE off the melancholy chain,
For God created all to bless.

THOMAS CHATTERTON.



OFTENTIMES we look forward with forebodings to the time of old age, forgetful that at eventide it shall be light. To many saints, old age is the choicest season of their lives. A balmier air fans the mariner's cheek as he nears the shores of immortality; fewer waves ruffle his sea; quiet reigns, deep, still, and solemn. . . The pilgrims have reached the land of Beulah, that happy country whose days are as the days of heaven upon the earth. . . Some dwell here for years, and others come to it but a few hours before their departure, but it is an Eden on earth.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

BLESSED are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.—LUKE vi. 21.



DEATH cannot come to him untimely who is fit to die:

The less of this cold world, the more of heaven;

The briefer life, the earlier immortality.

H. H. MILMAN.



THERE'S things go on in the soul, and times when feelings come into you like a mighty rushing wind, as the Scripture says, and part your life in two a'most, so as you look back on yourself as if you was somebody else.

GEORGE ELIOT.



RIPE fruits of choice experience are gathered as the report of life's evening, and the soul prepares itself for rest.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON.



BEAR ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.—GALATIANS vi. 2.

*FOR whosoever shall give you a cup of water
to drink in my name, because ye belong to
Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his
reward.—MARK ix. 41.*



THE greatest of painters only once painted a mysteriously divine child : he couldn't have told how he did it, and we can't tell why we feel it to be divine. I think there are stores laid up in human nature that our understandings can make no complete inventory of.

GEORGE ELIOT.



TRUE happiness is not the growth of earth ;
The soil is fruitless, if you seek it there:
'Tis an exotic of celestial birth,
And never blooms but in celestial air.
Sweet plant of Paradise ! its seeds are
sown
In, here and there, a breast of heavenly
mold ;
It rises slow and buds, but ne'er was known
To blossom here—the climate is too cold.

R. B. SHERIDAN.

BUT I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you. Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.—LUKE vi. 27-28.



HAVE hope! though clouds environ round
And gladness hides her face in scorn,
Put thou the shadow from thy brow,
No night but has its morn.

Have faith! where'er thy bark is driven,
The calm's disport, the tempest's mirth,
Know this, God rules the hosts of heaven,
The inhabitants of earth.

Have love ! not love for one,
But man, as man, thy brother call;
And scatter, like the circling sun,
Thy charities on all.

SCHILLER.



 H ! what does not God give to man in
mercy when tribulation itself is sent to
him as a blessing.

ST. AUGUSTINE.

THEN they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.—ACTS ii. 41-42.



NOT myself, but the truth that in life I
have spoken,

Not myself, but the seed that in life I
have sown;

Shall pass on to ages—all about me for-
gotten,

Save the truth I have spoken, the things
I have done.

HORATIUS BONAR.



ENOBLE career depends on the treat-
ment given to the infant ideas that
are born in the soul. So the thoughts
which we harbor within us, and which go
out through the doors of our mouths and
our hands, determine our real character.
One of the highest of spiritual luxuries is
the enjoyment of pure and exhilarating and
sublime thoughts.

THEODORE L. CUYLER.

VERILY I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.—MARK x. 15.



Fa new building had fallen down and he had been told that this was a divine judgment, he would have said, “ May be; but the bearing o’ the roof and walls wasn’t right, else it wouldn’t ha’ come down.”

GEORGE ELIOT.



MAN-like it is to fall into sin,
Fiend-like is it to dwell therein,
Christ-like is it for sin to grieve,
God-like is it all sin to leave.

From the German.



YIELD all the days their due,
But when the evening light is lost or dim,
Commune with your own spirit, and with
Him !

Restore your soul with stillness as is
meet,

And when the sun bids forth, haste not to
show

Your strength, but kneel for blessing ere
you go.

THOMAS ASHE.

AND he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.—LUKE viii. 21.



THERE are chords in the human heart which are only struck by accident; which will remain mute and senseless to appeals the most passionate and earnest, and respond at last to the slightest casual touch.

CHARLES DICKENS.



THE fall thou darest to despise,
May be the angel's slackened hand
Has suffered it that he may rise
And take a firmer, surer stand;
Or, trusting less to earthly things,
May henceforth learn to use his wings.

And judge none lost, but wait to see
With hopeful pity, not disdain,
The depth of the abyss may be
The measure of the height of pain,
And love and glory that may raise
This soul to God in after days.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

WHY call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?—LUKE vi. 46.



TIME passes. . . Time, the gray, calm satirist whose sad smile seems to say, “Look, O man, at the vanity of the objects you pursue and of yourself who pursues them.”



LIFE in every shape should be precious to us, for the same reason that the Turks carefully collect every scrap of paper, because the name of *God* may be written upon it.

JEAN PAUL.



SHALL we serve Heaven
With less respect than we do minister
To our gross selves ?

SHAKSPEARE.



OUR little systems have their day :
They have their day and cease to be :
They are but broken lights of Thee,
And Thou, O Lord, art more than they.

ALFRED TENNYSON.

HOW think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?—MATTHEW xviii. 12.



HAST thou not learned what thou art often told,

A truth still sacred, and believed of old,
That no success attends our spears and swords

Unblest, and that the battle is the Lord's?

WM. COWPER.



BUT it is given to us sometimes even in our everyday life to witness the saving influence of a noble nature, the divine efficacy of rescue that may lie in a self-subduing act of fellowship.

GEORGE ELIOT.



TROUBLE is hard to bear, is it not? How can we live and think that anyone has trouble—and we could help them, and never try?

GEORGE ELIOT.

*VERILY I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven.—
MATTHEW xviii. 18.*



THE finest threads, such as no eye sees, if bound cunningly about the sensitive flesh, so that the movement to break them would bring torture, may make a worse bondage than any fetters.

GEORGE ELIOT.



EVER by day and night, under the sun and under the stars, climbing the dusty hills, and toiling along the weary plains, journeying by sea, coming and going, so strangely, to meet and to act and react on one another, move all we restless travelers through the pilgrimage of life.

CHARLES DICKENS.



GRANT us that love of truth sublime,
That love of goodness and of Thee,
Which makes Thy children, in all time,
To share Thine own eternity.

JOHN PIERPONT.

BUT many that are first shall be last ; and the last shall be first.—MATTHEW xix. 30.



TEACH me Thy love to know,
That this new light which now I see

May both the work and workman show;
Then by a sunbeam I will climb to Thee.

GEORGE HERBERT.



PRAYER may not bring money, but it brings us what no money can buy—a power to keep from sin, and to be content with God's will, whatever else He may send.

GEORGE ELIOT.



THAT is a deep and wide saying, that no miracle can be wrought without faith—without the worker's faith in himself, as well as the recipient's faith in him ; and the greater part of the worker's faith in himself is made up of the faith that others believe in him.

GEORGE ELIOT.



WE see flowers of good blooming in foul places, often.

THACKERAY.

As it is written in the prophets, Behold I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.—MARK i. 2.



Sow ye beside all waters,
With a blessing and a prayer ;
Name Him whose hand upholds thee,
And sow thou every where.

ANNA SHIPTON.



TN all thy actions think God sees thee, and in all His actions labor to see Him ; that will make thee fear Him, this will move thee to love Him ; the fear of God is the beginning of knowledge, and the knowledge of God is the perfection of love.

JOHN QUARLES.



No, I cannot catch the sunbeams of the soul always. The Beloved comes and talks to me most sweetly when I am neither prepared to write nor reproduce what he says. My soul, my soul, it does thee good to hear what is best and deepest, and not be able to say it again.

PROTAP CHUNDER MOZOOMDAR.

THE wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.—JOHN iii. 8.



FATHER! Thou must lead.
Do Thou then breathe such thoughts into
my mind,

By which such virtue may in me be bred,
That in Thy holy footsteps I may tread.
The fetters of my tongue do Thou unbind,
That I may have the power to sing to Thee,
And sound Thy praises everlasting !

MICHAEL ANGELO.



THE Word of God—the truth, the reason, the wisdom, by which men and angels live—abideth forever. That Word is in the ancient books ; it is in the modern mind ; it is hidden in our hearts ; it is old as eternity ; it is young as the morning.

REV. CHARLES GORDON AMES.



WE do highest honors to all great souls, not by following them, but by following what they followed.

REV. CHARLES GORDON AMES.

WHEREFORE we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.—*2 CORINTHIANS V. 9.*



UPON Thy word I rest
So strong, so sure;
So full of comfort blest,
So sweet, so pure—
The word that changeth not, that faileth never!

My King, I rest upon Thy word forever.

FRANCIS RIDLEY HAVERGAL.



THERE is music sometimes in an old phrase. It has a charm for the ear which is heightened by long association. Such phrases often nestle into the heart. . . Let us keep the phrases that are still full of life and thought, but only these.—*Christian Register.*



TRY to put well in practice what you already know; in so doing you will, in good time, discover many hidden things.—*Christian Register.*

FOR God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.—JOHN iii. 17.



ERE we living out God's thought for us; what He had in view when He made us and sent us hither? Are we doing in this world what He wants us to do? These are important questions; and we should not stop short of honest answer to them, for we shall have to account to God at the end for the way we have fulfilled our mission.

REV. J. R. MILLER, D. D.



LIVING

Is but the bearing, the enduring,
The clashing of the hammer: the cutting,
The straining of the strings,
The growth of harmony's pure wings;
Life is the tuning-time, complete
Alone when every chord is sweet
Through sacrifice, having passed the strife.

GEO KLINGLE.

FOR he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God ; for God giveth not the spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.— JOHN iii. 34, 35.



WITH wide-embracing love
Thy spirit animates eternal years,
Pervades and broods above,
Changes, sustains, dissolves, creates, and
rears.

EMILY BRONTË.



TIS out of silence that all the marvelous things of human action, all the splendid things of human courage, all the sublime offerings of human faith, have sprung. When the great tree falls in a sudden storm, we find that, for all its external bravery, it was decayed and weak within. Societies, governments, nations, fall when the secret chambers of individual hearts grow weak. But those secret chambers cannot be filled from the world outside. They can only be filled from within, at the cisterns of Infinite Silence.—*Christian Register.*

CAST thy bread upon the waters ; for thou shalt find it after many days.—ECCLESIASTES xi. 1.



BLEST be Thy love, dear Lord,
That taught us this sweet way,
Only to love Thee for Thyself,
And for that love obey.

J. AUSTEN.



THE world rolls on, let what will be happening to the individuals who occupy it. . . While the world and life roll on and on, the feeble reason of the child of Providence may be at times overpowered by the vastness of the system amid which he lives ; but his faith will smile upon his fear, rebuke him for averting his eyes, and inspire him with the thought, “Nothing can crush me, for I am made for eternity. I will do, suffer, and enjoy as my Father wills ; and let the world and life roll on !”

HARRIET MARTINEAU.



THE best things are possible, if we will but live for the best.

REV. CHAS. G. AMES.

SING unto the Lord ; for he hath done excellent things ; this is known in all the earth.
—ISAIAH xii. 5.



ENOUGH, if something from our hands have power

To live, and act, and serve the future hour ;
And if, as toward the silent tomb we go,
Through love, through hope, and faith's
transcendent dower

We feel that we are greater than we know.

WM. WORDSWORTH.



THE great use of intercourse with other minds is to stir up our own, to whet our appetite for truth, to carry our thoughts beyond the old track.

WM. ELLERY CHANNING.



A CHILD of God should be a visible beatitude for joy and happiness, and a living doxology for gratitude and adoration.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON.



THE chariot of God's providence runneth not upon broken wheels.

RUTHERFORD.

LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us : for thou also hast wrought all our works in us.

—ISAIAH xxvi. 12.



“A LITTLE while” to sow the seed with weeping,

Then bind the sheaves and sing the harvest song.

HORATIUS BONAR.



THE God who sitteth above, and presides in high authority over all worlds, is mindful of man ; and though at this moment his energy is felt in the remotest provinces of creation, we may feel the same security in his providence as if we were the objects of his undivided care. . . That though his mind takes into his comprehensive grasp immensity and all its wonders, I am as much known to him as if I were the single object of his attention ; that he marks all my thoughts. . . The same God who sits in the highest heaven, and reigns over the glories of the firmament, is at my right hand to give me every breath which I draw, and every comfort which I enjoy.

THOMAS CHALMERS.

*So the last shall be first, and the first last:
for many be called, but few chosen.*

*They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may
be opened.—MATTHEW XX. 16, 33.*



ALL true Work is sacred; in all true Work, were it but true hand-labor, there is something of divineness. Labor, wide as the Earth, has its summit in Heaven. Sweat of the brow; and up from that to sweat of the brain, sweat of the heart; which includes all Kepler calculations, Newton meditations, all sciences, all spoken epics, all acted heroisms, martyrdoms—up to that “Agony of bloody sweat,” which all men have called divine! Oh, brother! if this is not “worship,” then, I say, the more pity for worship; for this is the noblest thing yet discovered under God’s sky! Who art thou that complainest of thy life of toil? Complain not.

THOMAS CARLYLE.



Do not despise because your means of doing good appear trifling and insignificant, for though one soweth and another reapeth, yet it is God who giveth the increase.

JEAN INGELOW.

WHEREFORE, even as the Holy Ghost saith,

*To-day ye shall hear his voice,
Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation,*

Like as in the day of the temptation in the wilderness,

Wherewith your fathers tempted me by proving me,

And saw my works forty years.—(REVISED VERSION) HEBREWS iii. 7, 8, 9.



THREE is but one way in which man can ever help God—that is, by letting God help him: and there is no way in which His name is more guiltily taken in vain, than by calling the abandonment of our own work the performance of His.

JOHN RUSKIN.



IF life, like the olive, is a bitter fruit, then grasp both with the press, and they will afford the sweetest oil.

J. P. RICHTER.

TRUST ye in the Lord forever; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.—ISAIAH xxvi. 4.



ONE by one thy duties wait thee ;
Let thy whole strength go to each,
Let no future dreams elate thee,
Learn thou first what these can teach.

ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.



IT is not improbable that no man ever had a kind action done to him who did not in consequence commit a sin less than he otherwise would have done. . . There are few gifts more precious to a soul than to make its sins fewer. It is in our power to do this almost daily, and sometimes often in a day. Another work, which our kindness does in the hearts of others, is to encourage them in their efforts after good.

ANONYMOUS.



WE should *follow* Providence, and not attempt to *force* it, for that often proves best for us which was least our own doing.

MATTHEW HENRY.

FOR both he that sanctifieth and they that are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying,

I will declare thy name unto my brethren, In the midst of the congregation will I sing thy praise.—(REVISED VERSION) HEBREWS ii. 11-12.



SORROW sobers us, and makes the mind genial. And in sorrow we love and trust our friends more tenderly, and the dead become dearer to us. And just as the stars shine out in the night, so there are blessed faces that look at us in our grief, though before their features were fading from our recollection. Suffering! Let no man dread it too much, because it is good for him, and it will help to make him sure of his being immortal. . . And it is in sorrow—the night of the soul—that we see farthest, and know ourselves natives of infinity and sons and daughters of the most high.—*Euthanasia*.



DESIRE earnestly the greater gifts.—*1 CORINTHIANS xii. 18.*

A GOOD name is better than precious ointment.—ECCLESIASTES vii. 1.



GREAT things never do really happen to anyone; that is, the great things always come in shoals of countless little things, which look like insignificant atoms as we pass through them, and only seem a shoal when we have passed beyond them. When the angel set St. Peter free from prison, to St. Peter it seemed just girding on his garments, and putting on his shoes, and stepping through an open door, as he might do any day. It was only when the angel had left that he saw what a wonderfully great thing had happened to him.

MRS. CHARLES.



HOWE'ER it be, it seems to me,
'Tis only noble to be good.
Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than Norman blood.

ALFRED TENNYSON.

THEREFORE every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven, is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.—MATTHEW xiii. 52.



LEAVE me, O Love, which reachest but to dust,
And thou, my mind, aspire to higher things;
Grow rich in that which never taketh rust:
Whatever fades but fading pleasure brings.
Draw in thy beams, and humble all thy might
To that sweet yoke where lasting freedoms be;
Which breaks the clouds, and opens forth the light
That doth both shine and give us sight to see!
Oh, take fast hold; let that light be thy guide
In this small course which birth draws out to death;
And think how ill becometh him to slide
Who seeketh heaven and comes of heavenly breath.

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.

He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; the field is the world: the good seed are the children of the kingdom.—MATTHEW xiii. 37-38.



THE noiseless footsteps pass away;
The stream flows on as yesterday;
Nor can it for a time be seen
A benefactor there had been.

Yet think not that the seed is dead
Which in the lonely place is spread;
It lives, it lives; the spring is nigh,
And soon its life shall testify.

BERNARD BARTON.



ENDEAVOR to be patient in bearing with the defects and infirmities of others, of what sort soever they be, for that thyself hast many failings which must be borne with by others.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.



PRAYER is the pulse of the renewed soul, and the constancy of its beat is the test and measure of the spiritual life.

OCTAVIUS WINSLOW.

BUT he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.—JOHN vi. 20.



Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the proving of things not seen.

By faith we understand that the worlds have been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen hath not been made out of things which do appear.—REVISED VERSION, HEBREWS xi. 1, 2, 3.



THROUGH the weary day of sowing,
 Burning sun and drenching shower,
Day by day, so slowly growing,
 Comes the waited harvest hour.
So the kingdom cometh ever,
 Though it seems so far away;
Each bright thought and true endeavor
 Hastens on the blessed day.

REV. MINOT J. SAVAGE.



WE may ourselves, one of these dark days, need forbearance and silence from our brethren: let us render it cheerfully to those who require it now. Be this our family rule, and our personal bond—speak evil of no man.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

*JESUS answered and said unto them,
This is the work of God, that ye believe on
him whom he hath sent.—JOHN vi. 29.*



THE song most sweet—
Is that which lulls, not thrills the ear.

T. W. PARSONS.



ELMOSt all men have more goodness in them than the ordinary intercourse of the world enables us to discover. Indeed most men, we may be sure, from glimpses we now and then obtain, carry with them to the grave much undeveloped nobility. Life is seldom so varied or so adventurous as to enable a man to unfold all that is in him. A creature who has the capabilities in him to live forever can hardly have room in three-score years to do more than give specimens of what he might be and will be.

FREDERICK W. FABER.



LET us vigorously examine our own faults, and leave the faults of others to be judged by God.

BOSUET.

FOR the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. . . Lord, evermore give us this bread.
—JOHN vi. 33, 34.



FIND your niche and fill it. If it be ever so little, if it is only to be a hewer of wood and drawer of water, do something in this great battle for God and truth.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON.



WE need all our strength and all the grace God can give us for to-day's burdens and to-day's battles. To-morrow belongs to our heavenly Father. I would not know its secrets if I could.

THEODORE L. CUYLER, D. D.



WINDING and grinding,
Work through the day;
Grief never minding,
Grind it away !
What though tears dropping
Rust as they fall ?
Have no wheels stopping,
Work comforts all.

MRS. MULOCK.

WITH my soul have I desired thee in the night: yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early.—ISAIAH xxvi. 9.



IT fortifies my soul to know
That, though I perish, Truth is so:
That, howsoe'er I stray and range,
Whate'er I do, Thou dost not change.
I steadier step when I recall
That, if I slip, Thou dost not fall.

ARTHUR HUGH CLOUGH.



THE first great silence in the life of Jesus holds all His years of growth. It meant study in the shadows of the synagogue, meditation on the upland pastures, prayer beneath the evening stars. The first great silence for every life should be, know thyself. God has given to every individual soul some gift that is unique, peculiar to itself; some delicate tint that it alone can add to the great picture; some tone that no other soul can sound forth.—*Christian Register.*

*MY sheep hear my voice, and I know them,
and they follow me. And I give unto
them eternal life.—JOHN x. 27, 28.*



EVERY attempt to make others happy, every sin left behind, every temptation trampled under foot, every step forward in the cause of what is good, is a step nearer the cause of Christ.

DEAN STANLEY.



THOU followest
Thy path, I mine; but all go westerling,
And all will meet among the hills of God.

ROBERT BUCHANAN.



THE Present Time—youngest born of eternity, child and heir of all the Past Times with their good and evil, and parent of all the Future—is ever a “New Era” to the thinking man. To *know* it, and what it bids us do, is ever the sum of knowledge for all of us.

THOMAS CARLYLE.



SYMPATHY is the safeguard of the human soul against selfishness.

THOMAS CARLYLE.

*JESUS said unto her, I am the resurrection,
and the life : he that believeth in me, though
he were dead, yet shall he live.—JOHN xi. 25.*



GOD names differently what we judge failing,

In a glory-mist His purpose veiling.
One by one He moves us, hands anointed
By His hands, to do our task appointed.

DINAH MULOCK CRAIK.



THREE are two *freedoms* : the false, where a man is free to do what he likes ; and the true, where a man is free to do what he ought. *Two equalities* : the false, which reduces all intellects and all characters to a dead level ; the true, wherein each man has equal powers to educate and use whatever faculties or talents God has given him, be they more or less.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.



TELL men that God is love ; that right is right, and wrong is wrong.

F. W. ROBERTSON.

THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.—MATTHEW xxii. 37.



GOD works, we know not why nor how,
And one day lights, close hidden now,
May blaze like gems upon an angel's brow.

GEORGE ARNOLD.



REMEMBER now and always that life is no idle dream, but a solemn reality based upon eternity and encompassed by eternity. Find out your task ; stand to it ; the night cometh when no man can work.

THOMAS CARLYLE.



THE finest thing on the planet, by all acknowledgment, is human life. It is all we know of the image of God.

JAMES C. FERNALD.



IN the lifelong fight to be waged by everyone single-handed against a host of foes, the last requisite for a good fight, the last proof and test of our courage and manfulness, must be loyalty to truth.

THOMAS HUGHES.

THOU shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.—
MATTHEW xxii. 39.



THE soul of music slumbers in the shell,
Till waked and kindled by the master's
spell,
And feeling hearts—touch them but lightly—
pour
A thousand melodies unheard before.

SAMUEL ROGERS.



WE need a true measure of value. For we impoverish and waste our life when we over-value the perishable and under-value the enduring; when we mistake trifles for treasures, and treasures for trifles. What is it that men seek first and care for most? How many do you know who never waste their powers, forget their principles, nor lose their peace of mind in a chase after pleasures that are momentary, honors that are bubbles, and goods that perish with the using.

REV. CHARLES GORDON AMES.



WONDROUS is the strength of cheerfulness.
THOMAS CARLYLE.

THEREFORE I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.—MARK xi. 24.



THOU that art born in this favored age,
So fertile in all enterprise of thought,
Bound in fresh mental conflicts to engage
The liberties for which your fathers
fought—

Be not thy spirit contemplation fraught,
Musing and mourning ! Thou must act and
move,

Must teach thy children more than thou
wast taught,

Brighten intelligence, disseminate love,
And, through the world around, make
way to worlds above.

LORD HOUGHTON.



KNOWLEDGE, truth, love, beauty,
goodness, faith, alone give vitality to
the mechanism of existence.

JAMES MARTINEAU.



HABIT is a cable ; we weave a thread of
it every day, and at last we cannot break it.

HORACE MANN.

*HEAVEN and earth shall pass away ; but
my words shall not pass away.—MARK
xiii. 31.*



ESK for the golden key of faith, and then
put it into the Lord's hand, that He
may turn it in the lock of "His good
treasure."

ANONYMOUS.



HAND

Grasps hand, eye lights eye in good fellow-
ship,

And great hearts expand,

And grow one in the sense of this world's
life.

ROBERT BROWNING.



EVERY life has its secret source. The most transparent character—the man or woman whose every motive we may seem to read through the crystalline purity of a sincere life—has hidden springs, fed by God's own hand, whose existence we may surmise, but whose depth no plummet may ever fathom. Year in and year out we may live side by side with our nearest and dearest, and never drink from these fountains which supply inspiration to them.—*Christian Register.*

WATCH ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.—MARK xiv. 38.



THIS be my comfort, in these days of grief,
Which is not Christ's, nor forms heroic
tale:

Apart from Him, if not a sparrow fail,
May not He pitying view, and send relief
When foes or friends perplex, and peevish
thoughts prevail ?

J. H. NEWMAN.



MUSIC is sweetest near or over rivers where the echo thereof is best rebounded by the water. Praise for pensiveness, thanks for tears, and blessing God over the floods of affliction make the most melodious music in the ear of Heaven.

THOMAS FULLER.



“WHEN He shall appear, we shall be like Him.” In this the human spirit rests ; there is nothing greater. Already it appeared so to us, when, under the coarse garment, He concealed the splendors of heaven—already it seemed to us that here or nowhere was to be seen the noblest form of humanity.

THOLUCK.

IF any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.—LUKE ix. 23.



THERE be those who sow beside
The waters that in silence glide,
Trusting no echo will declare
Whose footsteps ever wandered there.

And soon or late a time will come
When witnesses, that now are dumb,
With grateful eloquence shall tell
From whom the seed, now scattered, fell.

BERNARD BARTON.



THE second great silence in the life of Jesus hides the masterful bracing of His powers to the supreme mission of His life. No sooner had He answered the summons from the voice of John the Baptist calling Him to come and take up the work which waited to be done, than, led by the Spirit, He went out into the wilderness that He might be alone, to concentrate His vision. . . . The second great silence, then, for every life, should be, Control thyself.—*Christian Register.*

*AND there came a voice out of the cloud,
saying, This is my beloved Son : hear
him.—LUKE ix. 35.*



WHEN earth's dark sorrows gather round,
Earth's consolations ever fail :
But succor is in prayer found ;
I lift my hands, I lift my wail,
I lift my heart, and Thou dost send
Solace and strength, Almighty Friend.

Hymns of Denmark.



THE third great silence in the life of Jesus tenderly veils the crowning hour of His spirit's tragic agony. In the Garden of Gethsemane He left even the most beloved of His disciples, that He might be alone; that out of the silence He might gather strength to enable Him to meet that highest demand; that He might have courage to lay down again all that He had taken up—all the bright hopes, all the splendid ideals, all the expected achievements. The third great silence, then, for every life, should be, Forego thyself.—*Christian Register.*

FOR the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.—LUKE ix.
56.



For

*All flesh is as grass,
And all the glory thereof as the flower of
grass.
The grass withereth, and the flower
falleth ;
But the word of the Lord abideth forever.*
(REVISED VERSION) I PETER i. 24. 25.



THE great aspect in which man differs from the beasts is this: The beast is furnished only with such powers and faculties as he needs for his low activities and his short span of life. But the intellect with which man is equipped is not for three-score and ten merely but for undying life and use. Man's mental outfit far transcends whatever it can accomplish in this short life.

REV. E. W. DONALD, D. D.

FOR the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.—LUKE xix. 10.



FOR at the heart of womanhood
 The child's great heart doth lie;
 At childhood's heart, the germ of good,
 Lies God's simplicity.
 So, sister, be thy womanhood
 A baptism on thy brow,
 For something dimly understood,
 And which thou art not now,
 But which within thee, all the time,
 Maketh thee what thou art;
 Maketh thee long and strive and climb—
 The God-life at thy heart.

GEORGE MACDONALD.



CONSCIENCE signifies that knowledge which a man hath of his own thoughts and actions; and because, if a man judgeth fairly of his actions by comparing them with the law of God, his mind will approve or condemn him, this knowledge of conscience may be both an accuser and a judge.

JONATHAN SWIFT.

THE Father hath not left me alone : for I do always those things that please him. As he spake these words many believed on him.— JOHN viii. 29, 30.



THERE seems a deeper impulse given
By lonely hour and darkened room
To solemn thoughts that soar to heaven,
Seeking a life and world to come.

CHARLOTTE BRONTË.



IT is Christ who has destroyed the fear of death; with Him death was but a sleep. . . What would be the use of fighting battles if the future were not an answer to the present pain? Any man who repeats in his soul the history of the cross, repeats in his experience the history of the resurrection. The whole result of Christ's victory over death is to make men rational and moral.

REV. GEORGE A. GORDON, D. D.



HAPPINESS in the presence of sorrow is a benediction.

ANONYMOUS.

AND all mine are thine, and thine are mine ; and I am glorified in them. And these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.—JOHN xvii. 10, 13.



O EYES, turned inward on our darkened hearts,

Open to see God's beauty on the earth;
Self-pitying tears that flow upon His smarts,

Fructify all our barrenness and dearth.

O folded hands, close clasped in dull despair,

Grow busy with God's work of love and peace;

O heart, forget to grieve, and rise to where misgivings cease.

CAROLINE E. S. NORTH.



BE not anxious about to-morrow. Do to-day's duty, fight to-day's temptation, and do not weaken and distrust yourself by looking forward to things which you cannot see, and could not understand if you saw them.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

NEITHER pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word : that they all may be one ; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us : that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.—JOHN xvii. 20, 21.



LEARN the mystery of progression duly :
Do not call each glorious change decay ;
But know we only hold our treasures truly
When it seems as if they passed away.

Nor dare to blame God's gifts for incom-
pleteness :
In that want their beauty lies ; they roll
Toward some infinite depth of love and
sweetness,
Bearing onward man's reluctant soul.

ADELAIDE PROCTER.



PAUSE, you who read this, and think for a moment of the long chain of iron or gold, of thorns or flowers, that never would have bound you but for the formation of the first link of one memorable day.

CHARLES DICKENS.

IF ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.—JOHN viii. 31, 32.



(W)UR instruments, our hands, our hearts, are given us to work with in *this* time —to struggle with the evil, to bring out the good, in *this* time, in order that people may look back in after-days and say: “See what has come down to us from it; see what good has been removed from all the wrong which those who dwelt in it tell us of; see what there is in it to imitate !”

FREDERICK D. MAURICE.



LIFE is but a working day,
Where tasks are set aright:
A time to work, a time to pray,
And then, please God, a quiet night,
Whose palms are green, whose robes are
white;
A long-drawn breath, a balm for sorrow,
And all things lovely on the morrow.

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI.

WATCH, therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.—MATTHEW xxiv. 42.



O TIME ! who know'st a lenient hand to lay
Softest on Sorrow's wound, and slowly
thence

(Lulling to sad repose the weary sense)
The faint pang stealest unperceived away !
On thee I rest my only hope at last,
And think, when thou hast dried the bitter
tear

That flows in vain o'er all my soul held dear,
I may look back on every sorrow past,
And meet life's peaceful evening with a
smile;

As some lone bird, at day's departing hour,
Sings in the sunshine, of the transient
shower

Forgetful, though its wings are wet the
while—

Yet, ah, how much must that poor heart
endure

Which hopes from thee, and thee alone, a
cure !

WILLIAM LISLE BOWLES.

SAY not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this.—ECCLESIASTES vii. 10.



ALL that is, at all,
Lasts ever, past recall;
Earth changes, but thy soul and God
Stand sure.

ROBERT BROWNING



IF the heart knows its own bitterness, let us be thankful that it also knows its secret joys. As the disciples said of Jesus when they saw His wonderful strength, “He has meat to eat that we know not of,” so many a tried soul is fed with divine manna that we know not of. Angels minister to them while we sleep, and they rise refreshed and strengthened for the daily fight which they bravely meet. . . It is all explained in this—that their life is hid in God; that from the hidden springs they drink draughts of love and refreshment.—*Christian Register.*

In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.—ECCLESIASTES vii. 14.



FEVER give less than your best, and remember that your best is always yourself.

ANONYMOUS.



THERE is no victory possible without humility and magnanimity, and no magnanimity and humility possible without an ideal.

THOMAS HUGHES.



WE are not all alike in this world . . . and we do not simply differ from one another, but we are dependent upon each other. . . It is part of the original plan of Almighty God for man.

FR. OSBORNE.



STRONG was His arm, the Bringer of salvation;

Strong was the word of God to succor thee!

BISHOP HEBER.

BUT the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated.—JAMES iii. 17.



OFTEN in leaves by the wayside,
But touched with a heavenly glow,
And with self-sacrifice fragrant,
The flowers of great love grow.

HENRY ABBEY.



HAVE these three things always present in your mind: what you were, what you are, and what you will be.

ST. BERNARD.



OH! we cannot spare the tender voice of warning, still heard amid all earthly noises, “What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world, and lose or waste his own being! Seek first what is worth most—the kingdom of God and His righteousness—the rectitude that is the completeness of His nature and yours.”

REV. CHARLES GORDON AMES.

*CHOOSE ye this day whom ye will serve.—
JOSHUA xxiv. 15.*



WHEN one we love is dead, why do we follow him with eager passionate love all the days of our life? Men have often done the best work of their lives under the inspiration of love for the dead. Many and many a mother loves to-day her little one that has been dead for a score of years, and goes to the sacred chamber where its toys and clothes are kept to indulge that love. How could we love the dead did we not feel deep down in our hearts the certainty that they were still living, living in another and a brighter sphere. The capacity for love with which we are endowed is a mere stupid waste if there is no life but this for it to be exercised in.

REV. E. W. DONALD, D. D.



THOUGHTS, like light, bind the world in one.

GEORGE ELIOT.

*I HAVE fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith ; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day ; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.—
2 TIMOTHY iv. 7, 8.*



WHAT have I learned where'er I've been,
From all I've heard, from all I've seen ?
What know I more that's worth the knowing ?

What have I done that's worth the doing ?

PYTHAGORAS.



(W)VER our forms, our faces, our aspirations we may have little control. These may change as do the seasons, but over our desires and aspirations for God we are given a large governorship.

REV. THOMAS VAN NESS.



GRADUALLY to lay a broad basis of such evidence as ought through all time to satisfy the reason and the heart of mankind, seems to have been the object with which our Saviour wrought.

WM. EWART GLADSTONE.

In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

Through the tender mercy of our God ; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us. To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.—LUKE i. 75, 78, 79.



SEND a sweet breeze from the sea, O Lord,
From Thy deep, deep sea of love ;
Though it lift not the veil from the cloudy
height,
Let the brow grow cool and the footstep
light,
As it comes with holy and soothing might,
Like the wing of a snowy dove.

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.



HE that wills to do “ His will shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God.” . . . The true doctrine is, we conceive, “ Act upon Christian principle, and you will come to believe it ; act upon what is true in itself, and it will come to be also apparent or true to you.”

WM. EWART GLADSTONE.

WHILE we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.
—² CORINTHIANS iv. 18.



EVERY moment brings some duty to be performed, and this is enough for our perfection. ANONYMOUS.



OPINIONS may differ; they must differ, and there is no cause for regret that they do differ, provided only that the most uncertain, the most challengeable of them may be considered “the stepping stones to higher things.” SAMUEL ELIOT, LL. D.



AND for every sincere act of worship and every upreaching of the soul, uttered or unexpressed, the world will be the better and heaven the nearer.

ANONYMOUS.



I HOLD it truth, with him who sings
To one clear harp in divers tones,
That men may rise on stepping stones
Of their dead selves to hidden things.

ALFRED TENNYSON.

THAT which I see not, teach thou me.—
JOB xxxiv. 32.



No earnest work
Of any honest creature, howbeit weak,
Imperfect, ill-adapted, fails so much
It is not gathered, as a grain of sand
To enlarge the sum of human action used
For carrying out God's ends.

MRS. BROWNING



TIT seems, my son, thou must at all times hope for spiritual communion. Self-unconsciousness is the condition of blessedness. Both the good and the evil belonging to thee thou must learn to forget. Let infinite excellence bend over thee, like the all-investing sky. Forget thyself, thy present, thy future in God's contemplation, His wisdom, His work. Every moment have something that is worthy, be it in mind, be it in act. When the mind's habits change, man changes.

PROTAP CHUNDAR MOZOOMDAR.

AND the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil.
—GENESIS iii. 22.



SINCE God is love, and loving
Is heaven, love keeps the gate ;
And they who know love's secret
Need no future wait.

In spite, then, of earth's sorrow,
In spite of all its sin,
The kingdom is before you :
Arise and enter in.

REV. MINOT J. SAVAGE.



THREE is a state of heart which makes truth credible the moment it is uttered. . . Love is credible to a loving heart ; purity is credible to a pure mind. . . It is of such a state—a state of love and hope—which makes the Divine truth credible and natural at once, that Jesus speaks : “ Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.”

F. W. ROBERTSON.

PEACE I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.—JOHN xiv. 27.



Sow good services; sweet remembrance will spring from them.

MME. DE STAËL.



I WISH to speak to you this morning on the limits of human responsibility. I wish to point out to you that we cannot confine our responsibility to our own acts. . . There is such a thing as corporate responsibility. . . There is a sense in which one man is responsible for the acts of another man. . . We are so knitted and jointed together that our acts go out into other lives and perpetuate themselves, and thus the consequences of our deeds are felt in other generations and in other circles, and because of what we have done other crimes are committed, and in that measure we are responsible for the crimes. . . No man stands alone in life. . . You are born into a family, and are a part of that family.

REV. LYMAN ABBOTT.

FOR mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.—LUKE ii. 30, 31, 32.



OH ! for grace our hearts to soften ;
Teach us, Lord, at length to love.
We, alas ! forget too often
What a friend we have above.

REV. JOHN NEWTON.



“**V**ERILY, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” As much as to say, “It is not enough that you have examined My credentials, and that, approving them, you own Me as a teacher carrying a commission from on high. You must accept deeper results of My mission than any you have yet thought of, and must give your mind and spirit to be translated into the region of a new and better life.”

WM. EWART GLADSTONE.



IT is the soul that builds itself a body.

SCHILLER.

He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much.—LUKE xvi. 10.



For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.—HEBREWS x. 36.



As when the valleys all in shadow lie,
And shadowy shapes of fear still haunt the
night,
Some mountain peak reflects the coming
light,
And waiting lips break forth with joyful cry
For gladness that at last the day is nigh.
So when some soul that towers afar is
bright,
The souls within the shadow, at the sight
Grow sudden glad to know 'tis light on
high !

ANONYMOUS.



JESUS and souls like Him help us. . . We see them towering above us like mountains that catch the first rays of light, while we are in the dark.

REV. MINOT J. SAVAGE.

FOR what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?—LUKE ix. 25.



Not by one portal or one path alone
God's holy messages to men are known.

EDWIN ARNOLD.



DEEP within our being another and grander miracle has its growth from small beginnings. The seeds of heavenly character may exist in soft inward promptings, too weak for words, too obscure for conscious thought. The noblest sentiments may be born as faint thrills of feeling which pass unnoticed. From half-whispered suggestions may spring great truths and great actions. And who of us does not know what great miseries may grow from small sins?

REV. CHARLES GORDON AMES.



WHEN we see how the course of history has been changed by a few strong and earnest souls, can we half imagine the splendor that would light up this human world if multitudes were to become such as these were? REV. CHARLES GORDON AMES.

*THE life is more than meat, and the body
more than raiment.—LUKE xii. 23.*



THIS is the curse of life. That not
A nobler, wiser train
Of calmer thoughts and feelings blot
Our passions from our brain.
But each day brings its petty dust
Our soon choked souls to fill;
And we forget because we must,
And not because we will.

MATTHEW ARNOLD.



DISAPPOINTMENTS are shafts sent
to the very bottom of our souls, and
whatever is there, whether gold, or only
copper, they bring it to the surface.

EDMUND GARRETT.



THE times in which we live are great—so
great that we can hardly conceive them
great enough; so great that we, old and
young, cannot be great and good and brave
and hardworking enough ourselves, if we do
not wish to appear quite unworthy of the
times in which our lot has been cast.

MAX MÜLLER.

BELoved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.—I JOHN iv. 11.



PRAYER is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of an eye
When none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
That infant lips can try;
Prayer the sublimest strains that reach
The majesty on high.

JAMES MONTGOMERY.



DIIGENCE and moderation are the best steps whereby to climb to any excellency. Nay, it is rare if there be any other way. The heavens send not down their rain in floods, but by drops, and deny distillations. A man is neither good nor wise, nor rich at once: yet softly creeping up these hills, he shall every day better his prospects; till at last he gain the top.

OWEN FELTHAM.

FOR this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous.—I JOHN v. 3.



PRAYER is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed.

JAMES MONTGOMERY.



N the good providence of God even our spiritual failures are not without their benefits. Rightly apprehended, they teach us a humility which rarely is experienced so thoroughly except as resulting from this. This fact does not justify carelessness in respect to temptation. . . But a truly devout spirit does gain spiritual wisdom and strength from its experience of failure, penitence, and struggles to reform which are full of blessing. Yet the penitence and the endeavor to reconsecrate life must follow one's consciousness of guilt quickly.—*The Congregationalist.*

AND this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, that, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.—2 JOHN i. 6.



ARISE, arise, good Christian,
Let right to wrong succeed;
Let penitential sorrow
To heavenly gladness lead.
To the light that hath no evening,
That knows nor morn nor sun,
The light so near and golden.

The Celestial Country.



ELVE of what is high, or true and pure, often keeps out from the heart what is contrary to these. Even when the heart and habit are not in the right, if once the right be chosen, be aimed at, be practiced, the base, the false, the impure become gradually crowded out and eventually supplanted. . . The hunger and thirst for the good are the best assurances that the evil is to pass away.—*The Churchman.*

*FOR as many as are led by the spirit of God,
they are the sons of God.—ROMANS viii. 14.*



*For in him we live, and move, and have our
being ; as certain also of your own poets have
said, For we are also his offspring.—ACTS xvii.
28.*



PRUNE thou thy words, the thoughts control,
That o'er thee swell and throng:
Thy will condense within thy soul,
And change to purpose strong.

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.



EVERY day is a life, fresh with reinstated power, setting out on its allotted labor and limited path. Its morning resembles a whole youth. Its eventide is sobering into age. It is rounded at either end by a sleep —unconscious at the outset and oblivion at the close. We are born anew every time that the sun rises, and lights up the world to do his part in it. N. L. FROTHINGHAM.



ACTIVE participation in the duties of *this* world seems to be the surest safeguard for the health of body and mind.

LYDIA MARIA CHILD.

WHEREFORE we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.—2 CORINTHIANS V. 9.



LET goodness and mercy, my bountiful God,
Still follow my footsteps till I meet Thee
above:

I seek by the path which my forefathers
trod

Through the land of their sojourn, Thy
kingdom of love.

JAMES MONTGOMERY.



MY ground of hope for myself and for humanity is in that divine fullness of love which was manifested in the life, teachings, and self-sacrifices of Christ. In the infinite mercy of God so revealed, and not in any work or merit of our nature, I humbly, yet very hopefully, trust. I regard Christianity as a life rather than a creed, and in judging of my fellow-man I can use no other standard than that which our Lord and Master has given us : “By their fruits ye shall know them.”

REV. LYMAN ABBOTT.

FOR this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not grievous.—I JOHN v. 3.



How can faith be full of blindness
To despair of mercy's kindness—
While the hand of Heaven is giving
Comfort from the ever-living?

NICHOLAS BRETON.



IF we have any virtue in us, did it spring up in an hour or a day? If we have any wisdom, did we pick it up in a lump at some particular turn of our experience? No; these signs and fruits of inward life are the outcome of long, slow-working causes, running back through all our years; including all that we dreaded and bewailed, as well as all that we welcomed and enjoyed; including also the outward and inward life of our struggling ancestors, and the long and broad evolution of humanity. We must follow the hint: we must make each step an onward one.

REV. CHARLES G. AMES.

*YET a little while is the light with you. Walk
while ye have the light, lest darkness come
upon you.—JOHN xii. 35.*



THE lingering harmony in ocean shells,
The fairy music of the meadow bells,
Earth and void air, water and wasting flame,
Have words to whisper, tongues to tell His
name.

EDWIN ARNOLD.



MONE of us can live well by an occasional good resolution, any more than a seed can grow into a healthy plant by being used as a common plaything, and only now and then put into the earth for a minute or two. Everything depends on storing up in ourselves, by a habit of right-willing and well-doing, a great and ever-increasing fund of moral power which shall be always available to brace us against sudden temptation, to help us carry out our better purposes, and to hold us steady and true to the ideal.

REV. CHARLES G. AMES.

O MAN greatly beloved, fear not ; peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me I was strengthened, and said, Let my Lord speak ; for thou hast strengthened me.—DANIEL X. 19.



THERE was Hope in the ark at the dawn of
the day

When o'er the wide waters the dove flew
away.

But when, ere the night, she came wearily
back

With the leaf she had plucked on her deso-
late track,

The children of Noah knelt down and
adored,

And uttered in anthems their praise to the
Lord,

“ Oh, bird of glad tidings ! Oh, joy in our
pain ! ”

Beautiful dove, thou art welcome again ! ”

CHARLES MACKAY.



WHEN once thou hast conceived and
determined thy mission within thy
soul, let naught arrest thy steps.

MAZZINI.

*AND we desire that each one of you may show the same diligence unto the fullness of hope even to the end.—(REVISED VERSION)
HEBREWS vi. 10.*



EVIL is wrought
By want of thought,
As well as by want of heart.

THOMAS HOOD.



YOU remember that parable of the prodigal son, when the man came to himself and returned to his father. While he stood afar off, hesitating to go on, the father came out to meet him, and threw himself on his son's neck, and kissed him, and said, "Bring the best robe, and the ring, and the shoes, and kill the fatted calf." This is Christianity; it is God coming out to man when man turns his face to God. I wish I could put this simple, sublime, eternal, divine faith of the ages so before you that every one of you would say, "He shall be my God, revealed in Christ, received in the spirit, interpreted by the experience, lived in the life—my hope, my salvation."

REV. LYMAN ABBOTT.

*AND when he putteth forth his own sheep,
he goeth before them, and the sheep follow
him ; for they know his voice.*

*And a stranger will they not follow, but will
flee from him ; for they know not the voice of
strangers.—JOHN X. 4, 5.*



WE see Thy hand—it leads us, it supports us;
We hear Thy voice—it counsels and it
courts us;
And then we turn away; and still Thy
kindness

Forgives our blindness.

JOHN BOWRING.



WITH calm longing our glance rests
upon the blessed Home which lies
before us, and life appears to us peaceful,
and death sweet. The thorns of our pilgrim-
path no longer wound us, and the entrance
to the Father's house is no more narrow
and fearful. The waste blooms into a
garden of the Lord, and the dark valley
becomes a light, lovely path. With refresh-
ing peace within, praising God with heart
and mouth, we walk joyfully toward the
beloved Home.

MAX MÜLLER.

GLORY to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.—LUKE ii. 14.



HARK! the praising angels say,
Christ was born on Christmas Day
On blest Judea far away.

Hush! our pleading spirits say,
Christ be born in us, we pray,
And give our souls their Christmas Day.

From the German.



E DAY to lift up the soul to God and bring man nearer to his brother. . . . Sing the angels' song to all human hearts of “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

J. F. CLARKE.



GOD, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets; hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things; by whom also he made the worlds.—HEBREWS i. 1, 2.

WHATSOEVER things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.—PHILIPPIANS iv. 8.



WHERE'ER the gentle heart
Finds courage from above;
Where'er the heart forsook
Warms with the breath of love;
Where faith bids fear depart,
City of God ! thou art.

FRANCIS T. PALGRAVE.



ESPIRIT pure, simple, and constant, is not like Martha, “distracted and troubled with the multitude of its employments,” however great; because, being inwardly at rest, it seeketh not its own glory in what it does, but “doth all to the glory of God”; for there is no other cause of perplexity and disquiet, but an unsubdued will and unmortified affections.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

*THEN shall we know, if we follow on to
know the Lord.—HOSEA vi. 3.*



SWEET are the thoughts that savor of content;

The quiet mind is richer than a crown;
Sweet are the nights in careless slumber spent;

The poor estate scorns fortune's angry frown;

Such sweet content, such minds, such sleep,
such bliss,

Beggars enjoy, when princes oft do miss.

ROBERT GREENE.



FROM the height of that future to which on the wings of the ancient prophetic belief we can transport ourselves, look back on the present. . . . Think of those good thoughts and deeds which alone will survive in that unknown world. . . . To that future of futures which shall fulfill the yearnings of all that the prophets have desired on earth, it is for us, wherever we are, to look onward, upward, and forward in the constant expectation of something better than we see or know. DEAN STANLEY.

*LET us therefore come boldly unto the throne
of grace, that we may obtain mercy.—
HEBREWS iv. 16.*



WHO in Life's battle firm doth stand
Shall bear Hope's tender blossoms
Into the Silent Land !

J. G. VON SALIS.



TAKE the grandest of human callings and detail its routine; people will turn away from it as from a dull story. And yet one may take the smallest calling, the meanest occupation, the most matter-of-course duty and shed on it the beautiful light of the ideal world, the glory of religion; and behold, as every dewdrop becomes a diamond when the morning comes over the hills, as every bit of mica flashes like a pearl when the sunshine strikes it, so this little atom of duty, care, toil, trouble, becomes a gem when touched by the light of its principle.

O. B. FROTHINGHAM.

CASTING all your care upon him : for he careth for you.—I PETER v. 7.



WOULD you know the peace of God, realize that you are a part of that infinite majesty; strive to catch now and then a note of the heavenly melody; chant a stray chord of the infinite harmony; remember that everything beautiful springs from a beauty that is behind it, every strong will rises from a strength underneath, and all your loves are fed from the fountain of infinite love. And for yourself you may mar the beautiful or reflect it, you can either enter into the strength or become its victim, know the love or thwart it.

J. L. L. JONES.



FULL souls are double mirrors, making still
An endless vista of fair things before,
Repeating things behind.

GEORGE ELIOT.



GREATER love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.—JOHN xv. 13.

BE kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.—ROMANS xii. 10.



WHEN we go out into the fields in the evening of the year, we regard, even in spite of ourselves, the still but steady advances of time. . . Yet a few years, we think, and all that now bless, or all that now convulse humanity, will also have perished. The mightiest pageantry of life will pass: the loudest notes of triumph or of conquest will be silent in the grave; “the wicked,” wherever active, will “cease from troubling,” and “the weary,” wherever suffering, will “be at rest.” Under an impression so profound we feel our own hearts better. The cares, the animosities, the hatreds which society may have engendered, sink unperceived from our bosoms.

ARCHIBALD ALISON.



HEROIC souls in old times had no more opportunities than we have; but they used them.

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

AND let us not be weary in well doing : for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men.—GALATIANS vi. 9, 10.



WHY press we so against the door that Fate
Has barred upon our hearts' desire ?
Why hold our lives bereft and desolate
Because God writes their almanac in fire ?
Why should we sadden with dark clouded
skies,
When others make a ladder of their love,
And while we deem ourselves too weak to
rise,
They've climbed above ?

CAROLINE NORTH.



Not throned above the skies,
Nor golden-walled afar,
But where Christ's two or three
In His name gathered are,
Be in the midst of them,
God's own Jerusalem!

FRANCIS T. PALGRAVE.

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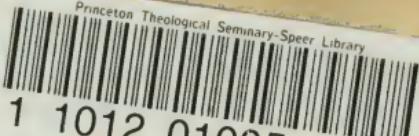
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